



# ECONEWSWIRE

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

---

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION | [WWW.IOWADNR.GOV/NEWS/](http://WWW.IOWADNR.GOV/NEWS/)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JANUARY 28, 2010

1. **Apply now for the Governor's Iowa Environmental Excellence Awards**
2. **Iowans create water quality successes in 2009**
3. **DNR extends comment period for animal feeding operations rules**
4. **Spill at Keokuk Roquette plant reaches stream**
5. **DNR enforcement actions**

## **APPLY NOW FOR THE GOVERNOR'S IOWA ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

**MEDIA CONTACT: Emily Grover, DNR, at (515) 242-5955 or  
[Emily.Grover@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Emily.Grover@dnr.iowa.gov)**

DES MOINES — Iowa businesses, organizations and citizens are invited to apply for the Governor's Iowa Environmental Excellence Awards. To download an application, go to [www.iowadnr.gov/other/ee/index.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/other/ee/index.html); applications are due March 31, 2009.

These awards are the premier environmental honors in Iowa, recognizing leadership and innovation in the protection of Iowa's water, land and air.

"As Governor, I am committed to protecting the land, lakes, rivers and streams that we all love," said Governor Culver. "To do so will require the hard work of all Iowans, including Iowa's business community. I am proud to recognize those businesses who share in our common commitment to the environment, and I encourage all those who are joining in our efforts to keep Iowa beautiful to apply for the Governor's Environmental Excellence award."

Awards will be given for overall Environmental Excellence, along with Special Project Awards in:

- Air Quality
- Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy
- Habitat Restoration
- Waste Management
- Water Quality
- Environmental Education

This year, the Environmental Education will recognize an educator or educational institution's program that helps to engage and empower participants to be stewards of their local natural resources.

The awards program is coordinated by the Iowa Governor's Office, the Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the Iowa Department of Economic Development, the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Iowa Waste Reduction Center.

For more information and to download an application, go to [www.iowadnr.gov/other/ee/index.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/other/ee/index.html) or contact Emily Grover at (515) 242-5955 or [Emily.Grover@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Emily.Grover@dnr.iowa.gov).

###

## IOWANS CREATE WATER QUALITY SUCCESSES IN 2009

**MEDIA CONTACT: Steve Hopkins, DNR Watershed Improvement, at (515) 281-6402 or [Stephen.Hopkins@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Stephen.Hopkins@dnr.iowa.gov)**

DES MOINES — The efforts of Iowans in 2009 to improve Iowa's lakes, rivers and streams have resulted in success stories across the state, and more efforts are underway for 2010. Working with groups statewide, including the Iowa DNR's Watershed Improvement Program, Iowans are making changes on the land to improve our waters.

"Thanks to the hard work of Iowans at the local level, we're seeing positive changes in our state's water quality," said DNR Director Richard Leopold. "Not only is success measured by cleaner drinking water and better water for boating,

fishing and swimming, but it also translates into more tourism and revenue for Iowa communities.”

The DNR works with other state and federal agencies to help Iowans organize local watershed improvement efforts by providing technical and financial assistance. The DNR helps groups create long-term, comprehensive plans for making changes in their water. With watershed management plans, local groups can target efforts in the areas that need the most help and can make the largest impact on water quality. Working with landowners, homeowners and volunteers, local watershed efforts help landowners use conservation practices – farming and land management practices – that help keep soil on the land and pollutants out of our water.

For example, one family in northeast Iowa joined an existing effort in the Coldwater and Pine Creek watershed area and, as a result, participated in what one group member called a “conservation conversion.” Jolene and Matt Nierling, who own a 120-cow dairy farm in the watershed, were on the fence about getting involved. But with guidance, technical assistance and funding from the watershed group and its partners, the Nierlings transformed their land by identifying problems and creating solutions.

“I knew there needed to be improvements. It was just the right thing to do,” Matt said. “I think it’s made a difference. I can see the bottom of the creek now, and you couldn’t before.” In addition to building a sediment pond, the Nierlings installed 2.5 miles of fence to keep cattle out of Pine Creek, which runs through their property, built structures to store manure and catch runoff, and planted nearly 3,500 trees on each side of the creek to strengthen the banks. In all, the Nierlings’ efforts are keeping an estimated 234 tons of soil from reaching the creek each year.

The Nierlings’ story, as well as other success stories from 2009, are highlighted in “Working for Clean Water: 2009 Watershed Improvement Successes in Iowa,” a booklet available on the DNR’s Web site at [www.iowadnr.gov/water/watershed/success.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/watershed/success.html).

Work is already underway to create the next round of success stories. The DNR is now accepting applications for a grant designed to help locally-led groups develop water quality improvement efforts in Iowa watersheds. Groups can request these Watershed Planning Grants to develop plans to improve a local river, lake or stream on the state’s impaired waters list.

“We appreciate being able to help Iowans improve their lakes, rivers and streams,” said Steve Hopkins of the DNR’s Watershed Improvement Program. “The first step in applying for our grants is to give us a call, so we can discuss your group’s vision for water quality, answer questions and talk about the resources available to you.”

While the Watershed Improvement Program heads up these watershed projects for the DNR, watershed projects are a collaborative effort with many DNR programs, such as fisheries, wildlife and forestry. The DNR also works with a number of partners, such as the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Iowa soil and water conservation districts.

For more information on the DNR’s watershed improvement efforts or on grant applications, contact Steve Hopkins at (515) 281-6402 or at [Stephen.Hopkins@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Stephen.Hopkins@dnr.iowa.gov) or visit [www.iowadnr.gov/water/watershed/](http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/watershed/).

# # #

## **DNR EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD FOR ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS RULES**

**MEDIA CONTACT: Gene Tinker, DNR AFO Coordinator, at (563) 927-2640 or [gene.tinker@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:gene.tinker@dnr.iowa.gov)**

DES MOINES – The DNR is extending by two weeks the deadline to submit public comments on a proposed rule that affects livestock and poultry operations in the state.

The proposed rules incorporate new legislation that limits winter land application of liquid manure if it comes from a totally roofed confinement, sets requirements for stockpiling, and clarifies existing laws or make corrections to existing rules.

The new deadline will be Feb. 15.

“We want to make sure everyone has an opportunity to make comments on the proposal,” said Gene Tinker, DNR coordinator of animal feeding operations.

“We know that people have experienced some difficulties in getting to public hearings or have been challenged by the weather or electrical outages.”

Two public hearings remain. People are invited to make oral comments at either meeting or submit written comments.

- Jan. 29 (rescheduled from Jan. 20) at 1:30 p.m. in the Marr Park Conservation Center, 2943 Highway 92, Ainsworth; and
- Feb. 1 at 1:30 p.m. in the North Iowa Area Community College Muse Norris Conference Center, 500 College Drive, Mason City.

Or, written comments can be submitted no later than 4 p.m., Feb. 15 to Gene Tinker, DNR, 502 E. Ninth St, Des Moines, IA 50319, or faxed to (515) 281-8895 or e-mailed to [gene.tinker@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:gene.tinker@dnr.iowa.gov).

Both the proposed rules and the 2009 legislation can be found on the DNR animal feeding operations Web site at [www.iowadnr.gov/afo/newrules.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/afo/newrules.html).

# # #

## **SPILL AT KEOKUK ROQUETTE PLANT REACHES STREAM**

**MEDIA CONTACT: Russell Royce, DNR Washington field office, at (319) 653-2135 or [Russell.Royce@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Russell.Royce@dnr.iowa.gov).**

KEOKUK — A leak at the Roquette facility in Keokuk Wednesday resulted in corn starch slurry reaching Soap Creek.

Employees at the facility discovered the leak in a line to a storage tank Wednesday afternoon, and shut a valve to keep the remaining slurry on company property. That slurry has since been cleaned up.

Roquette estimates the tank lost about 300 gallons of 3 percent corn starch slurry, but does not know how much of that entered Soap Creek. The stream drains into the Mississippi River.

# # #

## **DNR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS**

**MEDIA CONTACT: Full original orders and additional contacts online at [www.iowadnr.gov/legal/eactions.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/legal/eactions.html) or by contacting Jessie Brown at (515) 281-5131 or [Jessie.Brown@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Jessie.Brown@dnr.iowa.gov).**

DES MOINES — The DNR has taken the following enforcement actions. The following are only briefs; copies of enforcement actions, including the full, original orders and contact information, are available on the DNR's Web site at [www.iowadnr.gov/legal/eactions.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/legal/eactions.html).

### **Administrative Orders**

Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the order or 60 days to pay the penalty.

#### **Buchanan County**

*Wapsi Pig Corp., Barclay*

Pay \$3,000 penalty for late submittal of manure management plan. The penalty has been paid.

#### **Dubuque County**

*Table Mound Park Corp., Dubuque*

Schedule to connect to Dubuque's collection system, properly operate and maintain existing wastewater treatment facility until connection is completed, and pay \$7,500 penalty for wastewater. The order has been appealed.

#### **Iowa County**

*J&J Pork, L.L.C.*

Submit complete manure management plan (MMP) with a Phosphorus Index to DNR and pay \$3,500 penalty for MMP violations.

#### **Jackson County**

*Roger Kilburg and Kilburg Farms, Inc., Miles*

Maintain freeboard and cease discharges at facility, and either cover feedlots at facility or close feedlots, and pay \$7,000 penalty.

### **Consent Orders**

A consent order is issued as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

**Adair County**

*Titan Machinery, Inc., Greenfield*

Pay a penalty of \$2,500 for past open burning and open dumping violations.

**Black Hawk County**

*MetoKote Corporation, Cedar Falls*

Timely report incidents of excess emissions, obtain permits before making changes to control equipment, submit maintenance plan, and pay \$5,000 penalty.

**Butler County**

*Melvin Yerkes*

Properly dispose of solid waste and pay \$2,000 penalty for past open burning and open dumping violations.

**Cerro Gordo County**

*Golden Grain Energy, LLC*

Notify DNR prior to any release from its storm water pond, keep dried distiller grains out of storm water retention system and pay \$10,000 penalty for wastewater violations, \$7,500 of which may be a payment to Cerro Gordo County Conservation Board for environmental projects.

*Golden Grain Energy, LLC*

Sample effluent discharge for iron, total dissolved solids, and total residual chlorine as required by order, comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit limits, and pay \$10,000 penalty for wastewater violations, \$7,500 of which may be a payment to Cerro Gordo County Conservation Board for environmental projects.

**Chickasaw County**

*Fredericksburg Farmers Cooperative, Frederickburg*

Conduct site assessment for ammonia in bulk tank area at the facility, pay \$12,613 in fish restitution, and pay \$6,000 penalty for ammonia release into waters of the state. Company also agrees to dismiss its earlier appeal of previous administrative order.

**Clayton County**

*Henry Mueller*

Cease discharges at feedlot, obtain National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit before animals are placed back into feedlot, and remove

all manure and other wastes if animals are not placed back into feedlot within six months.

**Emmet County**

*Donald W. Christensen, Estherville*

Clean up and properly dispose of all solid waste from site and pay \$5,500 penalty.

**Hamilton County**

*Dennis Goodrich, Stratford*

Remove and properly dispose of solid waste located on his property, secure property with locked gates, cease prohibited dumping and burning of solid waste, and pay \$500 penalty.

**Keokuk County**

*Chris Webb and Eugene Vogel, Hedrick*

Properly dispose of solid waste in the future and pay \$2,000 penalty for past open dumping and open burning violations.

**Kossuth County**

*Ramona Gronbach and Thomas Edward Gronbach, Jr., Irvington*

Clean up and properly dispose of all solid waste from site and pay \$3,000 penalty.

**Marshall County**

*U.S. AG Center, Inc., dba LeGrand Farm Center, Marshalltown*

Cease open burning and open dumping of solid waste and pay \$1,000 penalty for past violations.

**Monroe County**

*Avery Acres, Inc.*

Pay \$2,000 penalty for manure removal violations.

**Osceola County**

*Van Bee Pork, LLC*

Ensure that dead animals and solid waste are properly disposed and pay \$1,500 penalty for open burning and open dumping violations.

**Ringgold County**

*Taygold Cooperative & Spurrier Oil Company, Inc., Clearfield*

Taygold and Spurrier to pay \$6,000 and \$1,000 penalties, respectively, for an overspill of fuel during delivery in July 2009.

### **Sioux County**

*Boerdery, Inc.*

Submit quarterly report required by National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and pay \$2,250 penalty.

*Farmers Co-Operative Society, Sioux Center*

Pay \$3,000 penalty for failure to submit reports required by department rule, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and previous judicial consent order.

*HDS Farms, L.L.C.*

Pay \$6,000 penalty for operational violations at an animal feeding facility.

*Meadowvale Dairy, LLC and Green Earth Nutrients, Inc.*

Parties shall pay a \$10,000 penalty for unauthorized discharges of manure to a water of the state from the Meadowvale facility.

### **Tama County**

*Our Sacred Space, Inc., Pilgrim Heights Camp and Retreat Center, Montour*

Pay \$1,000 penalty for failure to timely renew wastewater treatment facility's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and agree to dismiss earlier appeal.

### **Washington County**

*Perry Yoder, Kalona*

Prevent future manure discharges, maintain appropriate freeboard, pay \$377 in fish restitution and pay \$2,500 penalty.

### **Woodbury County**

*Morepork, LLC*

Submit complete manure management plan and fees to DNR, verify that facility has adequate space to retain all manure for a minimum of 180 days, cease all manure discharges from facility, and pay \$4,500 penalty.

### **Rescinded Orders**

The DNR has rescinded these administrative orders regarding air quality:

**Wapello County**

- James Olchefski, dba Hidden Valley Mobile Home Trailer Park
- Robert A. Nicholson, dba Hidden Valley Mobile Home Trailer Park
- Edna Richman