

# WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN DNR INSPECTS

## 10 Things to Understand Before Your Inspection

1. DNR inspectors prioritize education, support, and collaboration over disciplinary measures, aiming to ensure regulatory compliance for improved agricultural and environmental sustainability.
2. Inspections may be scheduled or unannounced and can stem from routine compliance inspections, investigation of complaints, or environmental concerns. You should be prepared for inspections and ensure your facilities comply with all regulations and best management practices.
3. DNR staff will follow your biosecurity protocols. If you don't have any, the DNR staff will follow DNR standard protocols.
4. DNR Inspectors will specify the records they need to review, including your up-to-date manure or nutrient management plan and application records from the past five years; as well as records pertaining to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits.
5. At confinements, inspectors will observe manure storage/stockpile structures, animal disposal areas, feed storage, and overall facility condition. They will be looking at berms, freeboard and potential for erosion. For open lots, they will also check:
  - a. Number of pens
  - b. Application equipment
  - c. Manure handling and storage structures, including settleable solids removal, pen scraping, stockpiles and dewatering schedule
  - d. Chemical storage areas (for NPDES- permitted facilities)
6. Inspectors will look at areas downhill of operation, looking for signs of discharge to the ground, wells, sinkholes or waters of the United States.
7. If you've had any enforcement action due to discharges in the last five years, DNR staff will review previous findings and discuss necessary improvements.
8. All inspectors use standardized forms and procedures, ensuring consistency across inspections.
9. Before leaving, inspectors will inform you of any concerns and what improvements are needed for compliance.
10. You will find DNR inspectors to be courteous, fair professionals who share your concern for a healthy environment and can be contacted when questions arise.

