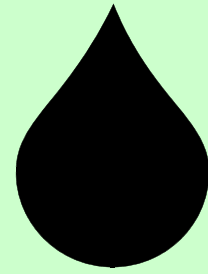


Groundwater

AGRI-BUSINESS STEWARDSHIP

*Brought to you by the Michigan Agri-Business Association
through a grant from the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program*



MARCH/APRIL 2009

The objective of this document is to provide you with current and helpful information regarding groundwater protection, and the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program.

STORING ANHYDROUS AMMONIA

Agri-businesses, farmers and some commercial businesses throughout Michigan store anhydrous ammonia in large storage tanks. Farmers use ammonia as a source of nitrogen fertilizer for crops. Please remember that anhydrous ammonia must be safely stored at all times. You must also comply with all state and federal laws and regulations affecting its storage.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

If you are storing anhydrous ammonia in large permanent storage tanks, a Risk Management Plan and Air Quality Permit (from the Department of Environmental Quality) are required. Following is some basic information about these important requirements.

Emergency and Risk Management Plans

Under federal law, farmers who store anhydrous ammonia are required to develop a comprehensive emergency plan. More information on emergency plans for ammonia can be found at: www.epa.gov/emergencies/docs/chem/advisory.pdf. In addition, agri-businesses and farmers that act as distributors and store chemicals such as anhydrous ammonia must develop a risk management program, prepare a Risk Management Plan and submit the RMP to the federal Environmental Protection Agency. There is help available for distributors to prepare and submit a Risk Management Plan electronically, by going to: www.epa.gov/emergencies/content/rmp/index.htm

Air Quality Permits

All parties that store anhydrous ammonia in large storage tanks must have an Air Quality Permit to do so. The permit application must be completed and submitted to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. For anhydrous ammonia, a permit can be issued within around 30 days after the DEQ receives a completed application. To read about applying for an AQP and to complete an application, go to: www.deq.state.mi.us/aps/downloads/permits/GenPmt/ammonia_REV4.pdf.

For questions, call the Michigan Department of Agriculture at (517) 241-2979. [Click here](#) for additional contacts and resources on anhydrous ammonia storage.

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