Disposal of Milk and Milk Products on Dairy Farms During COVID-19

These recommendations pertain to dairy farmers who are unable to send milk to processors during the COVID-19 pandemic due to reduced processing abilities.

1 **Milk may be directly applied to agricultural land at agronomic rates or added to an approved waste storage structure.** Keep records of the volumes of milk sent to storage or applied to land.

Choose Land Application Sites That:

- Have minimal slope
- Are not next to water bodies
- Do not tend to experience runoff
- Do not have sandy, easily drained soils
- Do not have shallow depth to groundwater

Average Nutrient Characteristics of Raw Milk

Nitrogen.....45 lbs/1000 gal [1]

Phosphate.....17 lbs/1000 gal

Potash.....15 lbs/1000 gal

***How much can I apply?**

4,500 gal/ac will supply approximately 200 lb N, 75 lb P_2O_5 and 70 lb K_2O

***Reduce rates, as needed, to avoid producing runoff.**

2 **Perform land application on any available application day to maintain sufficient storage volume in waste storage structure.** Adding milk to a waste storage structure will reduce storage capacity. A lactating cow produces about 7 1/2 gallons of milk every day, which equates to about 40% more volume going to the storage than with manure and wastewater alone.

3 **Land applied milk should be injected or incorporated to minimize odor and vector attraction.** Milk is a very high strength waste with significant odor and pollution potential.

4 **Follow the operation's approved nutrient management plan, permits and approved protocols.**

Additional information can be found at this webinar:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gk2aeVl4EoU&feature=youtu.be

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These are general recommendations that do not account for state-specific requirements. Contact your state regulatory program for additional guidance.

[1] Mourad, G., G. Bettache, and M. Samir. 2014. Composition and nutritional value of raw milk. *Issues in Biological Sciences and Pharmaceutical Research* (2) 115-122.