

# Frozen and Snow-Covered Land

## Purpose

Determining frozen and snow-covered land

## Relevant Legislation

*Agricultural Operation Practices Act*

- Standards and Administration Regulation

## Introduction

This guideline provides further direction on the treatment of frozen and snow-covered land as referred to in the Standards and Administration Regulation under the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* (AOPA). It also provides methods to determine if land is frozen or snow-covered.

These methods will help operators who are considering applying manure to identify whether the land is frozen or snow-covered.

Operators need to be aware of the AOPA regulations regarding the spreading of manure on frozen or snow-covered land. **If uncertain about whether land is frozen or snow-covered, operators should contact the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) for assistance.**

## Frozen Land

- Land is considered frozen if soil is impenetrable as a result of freezing temperatures, or more than one third of the top 15 cm (six inches) contains frozen soil water

## Snow-Covered Land

- Land is considered snow-covered if more than 50 per cent of the field is covered by an average snow depth of more than 5 cm (two inches) from the ground surface

## Methods to Determine Conditions

- Frozen land: Use a shovel to determine penetrability. If the soil can be dug using a shovel, visually inspect the soil for frozen soil water. Repeat this test at several locations on the field that is being considered, in order to make a representative determination.
- Snow-covered land: Visually examine the field for snow coverage and measure the depth of the snow. Conduct visual estimates and measurements at a number of locations across the entire field to make a representative determination.



## For more information

Contact your nearest NRCB field office or Alberta government staff (dial 310-0000 to be connected toll-free)

### Government of Alberta

[alberta.ca/manure-management-guidelines-and-legislation](http://alberta.ca/manure-management-guidelines-and-legislation)

Ag-Info Centre 310-FARM (3276)

Publications (780) 427-0391 or [open.alberta.ca](http://open.alberta.ca)

Email [aginfocentre@gov.ab.ca](mailto:aginfocentre@gov.ab.ca)

### Natural Resources Conservation Board

[www.nrcb.ca](http://www.nrcb.ca)

Morinville (780) 939-1212

Red Deer (403) 340-5241

Lethbridge (403) 381-5166

Email [info@nrcb.ca](mailto:info@nrcb.ca)

This guideline was developed by the Technical Advisory Group, a partnership among the Government of Alberta, the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) and the agriculture industry.