

**567—65.20 (459,459B) Manure storage indemnity fund.** The manure storage indemnity fund created in Iowa Code section 459.501 will be administered by the department. Moneys in the fund shall be used for the exclusive purpose of administration of the fund and the cleanup of eligible facilities at confinement feeding operation sites.

**65.20(1) Eligible facility site.** The site of a confinement feeding operation which contains one or more animal feeding operation structures is an eligible site for reimbursement of cleanup costs if one of the following conditions exists:

*a.* A county has acquired title to real estate containing the confinement feeding operation following nonpayment of taxes and the site includes a manure storage structure which contains stored manure or site contamination originating from the confinement feeding operation.

*b.* A county or the department determines that the confinement feeding operation has caused a clear, present and impending danger to the public health or environment.

**65.20(2) Site cleanup.** Site cleanup includes the removal and land application or disposal of manure from an eligible facility site according to manure management procedures approved by the department. Cleanup may include remediation of documented contamination which originates from the confinement feeding operation. Cleanup may also include demolishing and disposing of animal feeding operation structures if their existence or further use would contribute to further environmental contamination and their removal is included in a cleanup plan approved by the department. Buildings and equipment must be demolished or disposed of according to rules adopted by the department in 567—Chapter 101 which apply to the disposal of farm buildings or equipment by an individual or business organization.

**65.20(3) Claims against the fund.** Claims for cleanup costs may be made by a county which has acquired real estate containing an eligible facility site pursuant to a tax deed. A county claim shall be signed by the chairperson of the county board of supervisors. Cleanup may be initiated by the department or may be authorized by the department based on a claim by a county.

*a. Advance notice of claim.* Prior to or after acquiring a tax deed to an eligible facility site, a county shall notify the department in writing of the existence of the facility and the title acquisition. The county shall request in this notice that the department evaluate the site to determine whether the department will order or initiate cleanup pursuant to its authority under Iowa Code chapter 455B.

*b. Emergency cleanup condition.* If a county determines that there exists at a confinement feeding operation site a clear, present and impending danger to the public health or environment, the county shall notify the department of the condition. The danger should be documented as to its presence and the necessity to avoid delay due to its increasing threat. If no cleanup action is initiated by the department within 24 hours after being notified of an emergency condition requiring cleanup, the county may provide cleanup and submit a claim against the fund.

**65.20(4) Contents of a claim against the fund.**

*a.* A county claim against the fund for an eligible site acquired by a county following nonpayment of taxes shall be submitted to the department for approval prior to the cleanup action and shall contain the following information:

(1) A copy of the advance notice of claim as described in paragraph 65.20(3) “*a.*”

(2) A copy of a bid by a qualified person, other than a governmental entity, to perform a site cleanup. The bid shall include a summary of the qualifications of the bidder including but not limited to prior experience in removal of hazardous substances or manure, experience in construction of confinement feeding operation facilities or manure storage structures, equipment available for conducting the cleanup, or any other qualifications bearing on the ability of the bidder to remove manure from a site. The bid must reference complying with a cleanup plan. The bid shall include a certification that the bidder has liability insurance in an amount not less than \$1 million.

(3) A copy of the tax deed to the real estate containing the eligible facility site.

(4) Name and address, if known, of the former owner(s) of the site. The claim shall also include a description of any efforts to contact the former owner regarding the removal of manure and any other necessary cleanup at the site.

(5) A response to the request in the advance notice described in paragraph 65.20(3) “a” that the department will not initiate cleanup action at the site, or that 60 days have passed from the advance notice and request.

(6) A proposed cleanup plan describing all necessary activity including manure to be removed, application rates and sites, any planned remediation of site contamination, and any structure demolition and justification.

b. A county claim against the fund for an emergency cleanup condition may be submitted following the cleanup and shall contain the following information:

(1) A copy of a bid as described in subparagraph 65.20(4) “a”(2).

(2) Name and address of the owner(s), or former owner(s), of the site or any other person who may be liable for causing the condition.

(3) Information on the response from the department to the notice given as described in paragraph 65.20(3) “b,” or if none was received, documentation of the time notice was given to the department.

(4) A cleanup plan or description of the cleanup activities performed.

**65.20(5) *Department processing of claims against the fund.***

a. Processing of claims. The department will process claims in the order they are received.

b. The cleanup plan will be reviewed for acceptability to accomplish necessary actions according to subrule 65.20(2).

c. Review of bid. Upon receipt of a claim, the department will review the bid accompanying the claim. The department may consult with any person in reviewing the bid. Consideration will be given to the experience of the bidder, the bid amount, and the work required to perform the cleanup plan. If the department is satisfied that the bidder is qualified to perform the cleanup and costs are reasonable, the department will provide written approval to the county within 60 days from the date of receipt of the claim.

d. Obtaining a lower bid. If the department determines that it should seek a lower bid to perform the cleanup, it may obtain the names of qualified persons who may be eligible to perform the cleanup. One or more of those persons will be contacted and invited to view the site and submit a bid for the cleanup. If a lower bid is not received, the original bid may be accepted. If a bid is lower than the original bid submitted by the county, the department will notify the county that it should proceed to contract with that bidder to perform the cleanup.

**65.20(6) *Certificate of completion.*** Upon completion of the cleanup, the county shall submit a certificate of completion to the department. The certificate of completion shall indicate that the manure has been properly land-applied according to the cleanup plan and that any site contamination identified in the approved cleanup plan has been remediated and any approved structure demolition has been performed.

**65.20(7) *Payment of claims.*** Upon receipt of the certificate of completion, the department shall promptly authorize payment of the claim as previously approved. Payments will be made for claims in the order of receipt of certificates of completion.

**65.20(8) *Subrogation.*** The fund is subrogated to all county rights regarding any claim submitted or paid as provided in Iowa Code section 459.505.