10 Commandments of Manure Application
(King James version)

1. Thou shall not spread manure within 20’ of a ditch, intermittent stream, or surface inlet unless injected or immediately incorporated. Thou shall record the date and time of such application.

2. Thou shall not spread manure within 100’ of a pond, lake, wetland, or perennial stream unless an adequate vegetated buffer strip has been established then thou may not spread closer than 35’.

3. Thou shall not apply manure in fall or winter to open ground on high leaching index fields without first planting winter hardy cover crops where manure will be applied.

4. Thou shall not spread manure on saturated, frozen, or snow covered soils unless such spreading is absolutely necessary. When absolutely necessary, thou shall not spread within 48 hours of a predicted rainfall, snowmelt, or other runoff conditions.

5. Thou shall not spread manure within 100’ of any well – yours or your neighbor’s well. Thou shall know where wells border thy fields and the potential for groundwater contamination from thy farm’s activity! Thou shall request information on the location of thy neighbor’s (or rental landowner’s) wells.

6. Thou shall not locate temporary manure piles within 300’ of a well, surface water, or surface inlet. Thou shall locate them where clean water will be excluded and access is practical even during poor weather conditions.

7. Thou shall not spread manure in the fall or winter on fields that have a potential to flood.

8. Thou shall not exceed the soil’s infiltration or water holding capacity in any total single application of liquid manure. Thou shall adjust this amount to avoid runoff or loss to subsurface tile drains.

9. Thou shall not allow fall and winter manure applications to exceed 50% of the next crop’s nitrogen needs.

10. Thou shall not commence manure spreading without an annual detailed review from thy crop consultant. Thou may reduce, but thou shall not exceed, the recommended applications rates.