

# **New Rules for Using Non Agricultural Source Material on Farms Become Law**

On September 18, 2009, the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs jointly announced new rules and guidelines for applying non-agricultural source materials (NASM) to farmland. The new system will actually take effect on January 1, 2011.

Non-agricultural source materials (NASM) include sewage biosolids, yard waste, fruit and vegetable peels, food processing waste, and pulp and paper biosolids.

The new NASM framework introduces a new type of instrument called a NASM Plan, similar in design to the Nutrient Management Act's existing Nutrient Management Plan (NMP). However, unlike existing NMPs, a NASM Plan deals only with the fields where NASM is applied and not the whole farm unit. Further, receipt of NASM does not phase a farm into the requirement to prepare a Nutrient Management Strategy.

Not all fields where NASM is applied will require a NASM Plan. Category 1 materials such as vegetable culls will not require a NASM Plan, and will instead follow a maximum application rate set out in regulation. However, a NASM Plan for Category 2 with low metal content materials must be registered with OMAFRA and a NASM plan for Category 2 with higher metals and Category 3 materials must be approved by OMAFRA.

The regulations set out standards for application of NASM, including set back distances (e.g. from surface water, groundwater and residences), odour requirements and land application requirements based on material quality. All plans must be prepared by a certified person. The NASM plan will ensure that the land application and the material quality meet the requirements of the regulation, normally found in the Certificate of Approval (C of A). OMAFRA will also be responsible for approval of the NASM plans.

- Learn more at [www.ontario.ca/nasm-moe](http://www.ontario.ca/nasm-moe) and [www.ontario.ca/nasm-omafra](http://www.ontario.ca/nasm-omafra).
  - Synopsis of regulatory framework at: <http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/> (posting number 010-6515)
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