



Oil Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Program *Factsheet for Farms*

December 2010

What is SPCC?

The goal of SPCC is to protect human health and the environment by preventing oil discharges into waters of the United States and adjoining shorelines. One of the key elements of this program is to have an oil spill prevention plan, called an **SPCC Plan**. These Plans are intended to help farms prevent oil spills.

What is a farm under SPCC?

A farm is "a facility on a tract of land devoted to the production of crops or raising of animals, including fish, which produced and sold, or normally would have produced and sold, \$1,000 or more of agricultural products during a year."

SPCC applies to which farms?

SPCC applies to farms that:

- Store, transfer, use, or consume **oil or oil products**, such as diesel fuel, gasoline, lube oil, hydraulic oil, adjuvant oil, crop oil, vegetable oil, or animal fat;
- Could **reasonably be expected to discharge oil to waters** of the United States or adjoining shorelines, such as interstate waters, intrastate lakes, rivers, and streams; and
- Store more than 1,320 U.S. gallons in aboveground containers or more than 42,000 U.S. gallons in completely buried containers.
 - ❖ **TIP:** Start counting containers of oil that have a storage capacity of 55 U.S. gallons and above.
 - ❖ **TIP:** Contiguous or non-contiguous parcels, either leased or owned, may be considered separate facilities for SPCC purposes. Containers on separate parcels do not need to be aggregated together towards the 1,320-gallon threshold.

When should a farmer prepare and/or implement a Plan?

Continue to maintain an existing SPCC Plan at farms in operation on or before August 16, 2002, or make amendments to the Plan, and start using the Plan by **November 10, 2011**. Any farm that started operation after August 16, 2002, but before November 10, 2011, must also prepare and use an SPCC Plan on or before **November 10, 2011**.

What should farm owners/operators do now?

If you **already have a Plan**, maintain it. If you have changes to your farm, you may be eligible to self-certify your amended plan, as explained next.

If you do not have a Plan, you should start to prepare one:

- If your farm has the capacity to store between 1,320 up to 10,000 gallons and no container has a capacity larger than 5,000 gallons, you may prepare and certify your own Plan using the **draft plan template**¹ at...
http://www.usarice.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=682&Itemid=246.
- If your farm has the capacity to store between 1,320 and 10,000 gallons, but you have a container larger than 5,000 gallons, you may also prepare and certify your own Plan.²
- If your farm stores more than 10,000 gallons, you need to prepare an SPCC Plan **certified by a professional engineer (PE)**.
 - ❖ **TIP:** If your farm does not already have a Plan, you should prepare a Plan now, and **should not** wait until November 10, 2011.
 - ❖ **TIP:** If your farm is not eligible to use the template, you may still **consider** using it as a **starting point** to creating your own plan.

What must be included in my Plan?

Your Plan should include:

1. A list of the quantities and locations of oil containers at the farm;
2. A brief description of the procedures that you will use to prevent oil spills. For example, steps you use to transfer fuel from a storage tank to your farm vehicles that reduce the possibility of a fuel spill;
3. A brief description of the measures you installed to prevent oil from reaching water (see next section);
4. A brief description of the measures you will use to contain and cleanup an oil discharge to water; and
5. A list of emergency contacts and first responders.

What are good ways to prevent oil spills that should be in my Plan?

- **Use** containers suitable for the oil stored. For example, use a container designed for flammable liquids to store gasoline;
- **Provide overflow prevention** for your oil storage containers. You could use a high-level alarm or audible vent;
- **Provide sized secondary containment** for bulk storage containers, such as a dike or a remote impoundment. The containment needs to hold the full capacity of the container plus possible rainfall. The dike may be constructed of earth or concrete. A double-walled tank also suffices;
- **Provide general secondary containment**, such as sorbent materials, drip pans or curbing for areas where you transfer oil to and from containers and for mobile refuelers, such as fuel nurse tanks mounted on trucks or trailers; and
- **Periodically inspect and test pipes and containers**. You should visually inspect aboveground pipes; buried pipes need to be leak tested when they are installed or repaired. A written record of inspections is recommended.

How often do I need to update my Plan?

Amend and update your SPCC Plan when changes are made to the farm, particularly if you add new storage tanks or you purchase or lease parcels with tanks at and above 55 gallons. You should review your Plan every five years to make sure to include any changes in your tanks at your farm.

What do I do if I have an oil spill?

- Activate your SPCC Plan procedures to prevent the oil spill from reaching a creek or river.
- **Notify the National Response Center (NRC) at 800-424-8802** if you have an oil discharge to waters discussed above. If the amount of oil discharged to water exceeds 1,000 gallons, or any two discharges in any 12-month period exceed 42 gallons, notify your EPA Regional office.
- Implement spill cleanup and mitigation procedures outlined in your Plan.

¹ November 29, 2010 – EPA stated they are working on simplifying the (“Tier 1”) Template and instructions for farms. The new Template will be available around February 2010.

² January 21, 2010 – EPA stated they are drafting a Template for producers at this level of capacity (“Tier 2”).

For More Information

Read the SPCC rule and additional resources:

<http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/spcc>

Review the Oil Pollution Prevention regulation (40 CFR part 112):

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/>

Call the Superfund, TRI, EPCRA, RMP, and Oil Information Center:

(800) 424-9346 or (703) 412-9810

TDD (800) 553-7672 or (703) 412-3323

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/resources/infocenter>

Visit **www.usarice.com** and login to the Regulatory Issues section of the Government Affairs tab at the top of the page. You can find an unofficial, draft SPCC template here.

Disclaimer: While EPA and USDA have reviewed the information on this factsheet, neither agency has given official approval to this document.