

write down the procedures you will use to prevent oil spills (for example, the steps you will use to transfer fuel from a storage tank to your farm vehicles to reduce the possibility of a fuel spill), describe the measures you installed to prevent oil from reaching water, describe what you will do to contain and clean up an oil spill, and make a list of emergency contacts and first responders.

Although each Plan is unique to the facility, certain elements must be described in every Plan:

- Operating procedures at the facility to prevent oil spills;
- Control measures (such as secondary containment) installed to prevent oil spills from getting to water; and
- Countermeasures to contain, cleanup, and mitigate the effects of an oil spill that has impacted navigable waters or adjoining shorelines.

**Amend and update** your Plan when changes are made to the facility (for example, you add a new storage tank). **Review** your Plan every **5 years** to make sure it is up-to-date. **Keep** your Plan at your site.

## 8. WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE AN OIL SPILL?

Activate your SPCC Plan procedures to prevent the oil from reaching a creek or river. Implement spill cleanup and mitigation procedures outlined in your Plan. If oil gets into the water, **notify the National Response Center (NRC) at 800-424-8802** immediately. You may also need to notify state and local officials.

If the amount of oil spilled to water is more than 42 gallons on two different occasions within a 12-month period or more than 1,000 gallons to water in a single spill event, then notify your EPA Regional office in writing.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Visit the SPCC website for agriculture at:**  
[http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/content/spcc/spcc\\_ag.htm](http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/content/spcc/spcc_ag.htm)

**Check out information on oil spill prevention at:** <http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/spcc>

**Review the Oil Pollution Prevention regulation (40 CFR part 112) at:**  
<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr>

**Call or e-mail the EPA Ag Compliance Assistance Center:** (888) 663-2155  
<http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/agctr.html>

**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>

## SPCC PLAN COMPLIANCE DEADLINE

All farms and other agricultural facilities must prepare and use a SPCC Plan that meets the guidelines outlined in this brochure by **November 10, 2011**.

This Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA) works closely with EPA to ensure that SPCC Program information is distributed to agricultural retailers, distributors and farmers. For additional copies of this brochure, contact the ARA office.



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# *An introduction to the Oil Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Program:*

## *Information for Agriculture*

**SPCC Plan Compliance  
Deadline: Nov. 10, 2011**



## OIL POLLUTION PREVENTION

The goal of the Oil Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) program is to prevent oil spills into waters of the United States. Oil spills can cause significant harm to human health and the environment along with potential economic loss. This program calls for farmers and other facilities to have an oil spill prevention plan, called an **SPCC Plan**. These Plans can help farmers and agricultural facilities be prepared to prevent and respond to oil spills and protect water resources needed for farming operations.

### 1. WHO IS COVERED BY THE SPCC PROGRAM?

Your farm or agricultural facility is covered by the SPCC program if:

- A. it stores, transfers, uses or consumes **oil or oil products**;
- B. it has an aggregate aboveground oil storage capacity greater than **1,320 U.S. gallons** or a completely buried storage capacity greater than **42,000 U.S. gallons**; and
- C. it could **reasonably be expected to discharge oil** into or upon waters of the US or adjoining shorelines, such as interstate waters, intrastate lakes, rivers, and streams.

### 2. WHAT KINDS OF OIL ARE COVERED?

Oil of any type and in any form is covered, including, but not limited to: petroleum; fuel oil; sludge; oil refuse; oil mixed with wastes other than dredged spoil; fats, oils or greases of animal, fish, or marine mammal origin; vegetable oils, including oil from seeds, nuts, fruits, or kernels; and other oils and greases, including synthetic oils and mineral oils.

### 3. WHAT KINDS OF FACILITIES ARE COVERED BY SPCC?

Non-transportation related facilities that store, process, refine, use or consume oil are potentially subject to the SPCC program.

Operations intended to move oil from one location to another (transportation-related) are not included.

### 4. WHAT IS A FARM UNDER SPCC?

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." This definition does not affect our applicability under SPCC; you should still check the requirements outlined in sections 5 and 6 below.

### 5. HOW DO I CALCULATE OIL STORAGE CAPACITY?

Simply **add up the container oil storage capacities** and compare your total aboveground and completely buried facility capacities to the SPCC thresholds.

Use the shell capacity of the container (maximum volume), not the actual amount of product stored in the container (operational volume). Count only containers that have a storage capacity of 55 US gallons and above.

**Farmers:** Note that adjacent or non-adjacent parcels, either leased or owned, may be considered separate facilities. Containers on separate parcels do not need to be added together to calculate oil storage capacity.

### 6. HOW DO I DETERMINE IF MY FACILITY COULD REASONABLY DISCHARGE OIL INTO OR UPON WATERS OF THE US?

Consider the **geography and location** of your facility relative to nearby waters (such as streams, creeks, and lakes). You should determine if ditches, gullies, storm sewers or other drainage systems on or near your facility may transport an oil spill to nearby streams.

**Estimate** the volume of oil that could be spilled in an incident and how that oil might drain or flow from your facility. Think about the **natural**

**soil conditions or geographic features** that might affect the oil flow toward or away from waterways. You should also consider whether **precipitation runoff** could transport spilled oil off your site into waterways.

Assume **man-made features**, such as dikes, equipment, or other structures that could prevent, contain, hinder, or restrain an oil spill are **not present**. If oil can reasonably flow to a waterway and you meet the storage capacity threshold, then your facility is covered by SPCC.

### 7. WHAT DO COVERED FACILITIES HAVE TO DO?

A covered facility must **prevent oil spills and develop and implement an SPCC Plan**. If you already have a Plan, maintain it. If you do not have a Plan, you should prepare and implement one. Farms and agricultural operations will need to have their Plan **certified by a Professional Engineer (PE)** if their aboveground oil storage capacity is greater than 10,000 US gallons or if they had an oil spill greater than 1,000 US gallons or two oil spills of more than 42 US gallons to water in any 12 month period in the 3 years prior to the date the SPCC Plan is certified. You may be able to **self-certify** your Plan if your farm or other facility has a total oil storage capacity of 10,000 gallons or less and a clean spill history.

*Prevent oil spills:* Install dikes or berms around bulk storage containers; use sorbent materials, drip pans or curbing to catch the most likely spills where oil is transferred to and from containers; periodically inspect and test pipes and containers; and prevent container overfills.

*Prepare and implement an SPCC Plan:* The Plan describes the oil handling operations, spill prevention practices, discharge or drainage controls, and the personnel, equipment and resources at the facility that are used to prevent oil spills from reaching water. To prepare a Plan, make a list of the oil containers at your facility,