

**DELAWARE COUNTY SECONDARY ROAD DEPARTMENT
POLICY AND PROCEDURE MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: Ditch cleaning dirt disposal

1. Ditch cleaning should be prioritized by the need for improving drainage of the road ditch and not just providing fill dirt for residents. Road drainage or embankment repair should be first priority and general drainage the immediate second priority. Ditch cleaning operations should not be done to route water around a farm when a natural waterway exists within the field. Also associated with setting priorities, more effort should be spent controlling erosion instead of repairing the damage year after year.
2. Disposal of dirt will follow these guidelines:
 - a. Dirt will first be used for road repair or improvement.
 - b. If the County cannot use it, dirt will be offered to the adjacent landowner with the haul limited to a reasonable distance. If the adjacent landowner accepts the offer for dirt but cannot take it due to crops in the field or other reasons, and the County still needs to clean the ditch due to blocked drainage and/or making efficient use of the equipment in the area, the County may proceed to clean the ditch and haul to anyone in the immediate area limiting the haul distance. The County simply cannot clean most ditches before planting and after harvest.
 - c. Dirt refused by the adjacent landowner should be offered to anyone nearby willing to accept it, again keeping the haul limited.
 - d. The County reserves the right to refuse to clean any ditch containing debris, manure runoff, or other illegal waste disposal operations occurring in the ditch.

APPROVED: _____

Bill Skinner, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

Mark J. Nahra, County Engineer