



## **Iowa passes septic tank legislation**

Iowa has passed landmark septic tank legislation that will help prevent water pollution caused by leaking septic tank systems. The bill was overwhelmingly approved by the Iowa Senate in 2007, recently approved by a House vote of 95 to 3 and signed into law by Gov. Chet Culver.

Highlights of the new legislation include:

- Providing for septic tank inspections at the time of sale or transfer of property. If a system is found to be deficient, it must be brought into compliance with building codes prior to the completion of the transaction.
- Requiring the Iowa DNR to certify inspectors and to maintain a list of those inspectors.
- Allowing county personnel to be certified inspectors and counties to set fees for inspections by certified personnel.

Passage of this legislation was critical to Iowa's environmental safety because:

- The DNR estimates there are 100,000 failing septic systems in rural Iowa.
- Approximately 19 million gallons of untreated wastewater is discharged per day into Iowa waters from failing septic systems.
- Major flooding, like that being seen this spring, is an increased threat to these failing systems.