



Can I Burn?

	Yes (with a permit)	No (under any circumstances)	Maybe (see footnotes)	Yes (Exempt)
Agricultural				
Can I burn "trade waste"?		✓		
Can I burn "agricultural structures"?		✓		
Can I burn paper or plastic pesticide containers and seed corn bags?	✓			
Can I burn "landscape waste" originating on my property? ¹			✓	
Can I burn "landscape waste" not originating on my property?		✓		
Can I burn land part of a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?				✓
Is there an exemption for land zoned agricultural? ²			✓	

1. Yes, unless prohibited by local city ordinance (i.e. Ankeny and Altoona prohibit burning of landscape waste).

2. Yes, there is an exemption for land zoned agricultural in these areas. However, if you are clearing and grubbing for repurposing the land, you shall apply for a clearing and grubbing permit. If there is any building inhabited by other than the landowner or tenant conducting the open burn within 1/4-mile, you must apply for a variance permit. The "variance" permit process involves a 2-week public notification and comment period for any residence within 1/4-mile of the burn site.

Polk County Chapter V, Article I, Section 5-2 Definitions:

"**Agricultural Structures**" means barns, machine sheds, storage cribs, animal confinement buildings, and homes located on the premises and used in conjunction with crop production, livestock or poultry raising and feeding operations.

"**Landscape waste**" means any vegetable or plant wastes, except garbage. The term includes trees, tree trimmings, branches, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery, and yard trimmings.

"**Trade waste**" means all solid or liquid material or rubbish resulting from building operations, construction, demolition operations, or the conduct of any business industry, governmental or institutional activity, or trade, including, but not limited to, chemicals, cinders, grease, paint, plastic products, and other forms of liquid or solid waste materials, whether or not for profit.

"**Variance**" means a temporary waiver from rules, regulations or standards governing the quality, nature, duration or extent of emissions granted by the Health Officer for a specified period of time.