



STEVENS COUNTY
MINNESOTA

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<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/quick-links/feedlots>

On Page 2

- **Feeding livestock on pasture and crop residue**
- **Be sure to keep manure application records**

Stevens County 2019 Feedlot Newsletter

Livestock Producers Encouraged to Take Survey on Screenings

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is asking for your help in tracking down Palmer amaranth. Palmer amaranth is an invasive weed that has the potential to do great damage in Minnesota and cost the state's farmers millions of dollars.

The weed was first found in Minnesota in 2016 in conservation plantings. Since then, the MDA has identified it in several row crop fields. Palmer amaranth got into those fields through manure. It's been determined that animals had been fed screenings containing the weed seed.

What do we mean by the word "screenings"?

Screenings are the byproducts of seed processing and are obtained through the cleaning of grains. Screenings are commonly sold and used as animal feed, roughage, and bedding and can consist of many kinds of grain byproducts. Types of screenings that are used may include:

- Grain screenings: contain 70% or more grains (corn, barley, oats, rice, sorghum, wheat)
- Cereals and mixed grain screenings
- Chaff and/or dust screenings: material that is separated from grain or seeds during the cleaning process, and may include hulls, joints, straw, dust, sweeping, sand, dirt, grain, and seeds.

Because screenings are mostly unregulated, and may contain noxious weed seeds, it is important officials get a better understanding of the use, types, and origin of screenings.

Please help reduce the risk of Palmer amaranth and other noxious weeds entering Minnesota by filling out this voluntary survey. If Palmer amaranth were to become established in the state, it would cause substantial yield losses and greatly increase weed management costs in soybeans and corn.

To take the survey, go to www.mda.state.mn.us/minnesota-feedlot-survey or if you have questions about Palmer amaranth, please contact Mike Merriman at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture at michael.merriman@state.mn.us or 651-201-6386.

Setback Guidelines for Short-term Stockpiling of Manure

The same stockpile site cannot be used from year to year. All manure is required to be removed from the site at least once per year and spread on cropland at agronomic rates as fertilizer. A vegetative cover must then be established on the site for at least one full growing season before the site can have manure stockpiled on it again. Use the setback guidelines below when stockpiling manure.

Setback Guidelines

300 feet



River, Stream (shoreland)



Drainage ditch (public or private)

Uncultivated wetland & other waters of state



Rock outcroppings



Road ditch



Open tile intakes



Sinkhole

100 feet



Private well



1,000 feet

Lake, pond or flowage, (shoreland)



Community water supply wells

If an Accident or Spill Happens



Take immediate action to reduce environmental impact:

- Create temporary berms to stop discharge
- Temporarily plug culverts & drain tile intakes to prevent manure inflow
- Soak up liquid with absorbent material, such as hay, straw, cornstalks or wood shavings
- Must report incident to Minnesota Duty Officer by calling 800-422-0798

Low Interest Loans Available



The Stevens County Environmental Services office has funding available for manure handling equipment and manure storage facilities along with other eligible practices such as conservation tillage equipment and septic systems. Easy application, fixed interest rates at 3%. You choose the lender. Funding made possible by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Call for more details at 320-208-6558.

Feeding Livestock on Pasture and Crop Residue

Using management practices to avoid creating feedlot conditions

Proper livestock feeding practices on pasture and crop residue are necessary to avoid adverse environmental impact. The most common type of seasonal or crop residue grazing is stock cows on corn stalk residue after combining. It requires available water and sufficient crop residue that is not covered by snow or ice. These grazing areas typically will be planted to a crop the following growing season. Feed is brought in when crop residue or pasture grasses are not adequate to sustain livestock. Feed bunks and round bale feeders are common types of feeding equipment.



Pasture and crop residue grazing management practices

By moving the location of feeding equipment, the formation of manure packs around feeding equipment will be minimized and environmental impacts reduced. The frequency of movement will depend on the number and size of animals in any given area.

Locate sites away from sensitive areas

It is the producer's responsibility to locate and manage all feeding equipment and areas so that manure contaminated runoff from the site does not discharge into waters of the state. Avoid locating feeding equipment in the following areas:

- Rock quarries, gravel/sand pits or any mining excavation sites;
- Designated shoreland areas;
- 100-year floodplains;
- 300 feet from tile inlets, drainage ditches, streams, or wetlands;
- 100 feet of a private well; if a sensitive water supply well, 200 feet;
- 1000 feet of a community water supply well;
- Land with greater than six percent slope.

Impact of over-stocking

When stocking density exceeds the carrying capacity of the available crop residue or pasture grasses, the soil canopy maybe substantially reduced, lessening its effectiveness against soil erosion. Accumulation of livestock waste exceeding the upcoming crop or grass nutrient needs, particularly phosphorus, can create feedlot conditions with potential to negatively impact the environment, particularly if the livestock are located near a sensitive area such as a lake or stream. Feed from grazing on stubble fields or cropland where the stover has been removed or harvested is less palatable and often has little feed value for livestock.

Be Sure to Keep Manure Application Records

Keeping records of certain manure application practices is required for all feedlot facilities with 100 or more animal units (AU), even when a manure management plan is not required. Good records are important to account for second-year nitrogen from manure applications. Records also allow better estimates to be made of total manure nutrients generated at the farm, thus aiding in future planning efforts. Manure sampling is also required for feedlots with over 100 AU. The manure must be tested for nitrogen and phosphorus content at least once every four years. Minimum record keeping requirements are as follows for:

100-299 AU: 1) Recent manure analyses; 2) Field IDs/acres for each field, and amount of manure applied per acre; 3) Plant-available N per acre, including carry-over N

300-999 AU: Items 1 - 3 above plus; 1) Manure management plan unless the manure application is by a licensed commercial applicator; 2) Application dates; 3) Soil phosphorus test results; 4) Plant-available P₂O₅ per acre from manure and commercial fertilizer.

Manure application records must be kept for the most recent three years, except that records must be kept for six years at NPDES (over 1000 animal units) permitted feedlots and when manure is applied at any site within 300 feet of lakes, streams, intermittent streams, drainage ditches that are not protected by berms, or DNR protected wetlands.

The County is required to conduct a manure record check (for facilities with 100 or more AU) when doing annual feedlot inspections. To avoid a possible Letter of Warning or Notice of Violation letter, be sure to keep the appropriate records for your size of feedlot. If you have any questions, feel free to contact our office.