

April 2013



STEVENS
COUNTY
MINNESOTA

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County Website:
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Minnesota Pollution
Control Agency

Michael Sharp
Minnesota Pollution
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MPCA Website:
[www.pca.state.mn.us/hot/
feedlots.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/hot/feedlots.html)

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Stevens County 2013 Feedlot Newsletter

Upcoming Feedlot Re-Registration

Although it seems a long way off, the deadline to re-new feedlot facility registrations will be here before we know it. State Feedlot Rules require that all facilities with 50 or more animal units (AU) or 10 or more AU in shoreland update their registration once every four-year period. The end of this four-year cycle is December 31, 2013.

Animal unit is a term used to compare the differences in the production of animal manure. The table below shows the typical number of animals that it takes to exceed 10 AU or 50 AU.

AU	Dairy Cows	Beef Cows	Feeder Pigs
10	8	10	35
50	36	50	170

Shoreland in most instances, refers to land that is 1,000 feet or less from a lake or 300 feet or less from a river or stream.

If you are not sure if your feedlot is situated within a shoreland zone, just call our office to inquire. The determination is quickly made by reviewing the location of the site relative to the official DNR protected waters map.



Pastures do not need to register if the areas where grass or other growing plants are used for grazing and where the concentration of animals is such that vegetative cover is maintained during the growing season.

Stevens County staff will be working on another round of re-registrations beginning this summer. Letters will be mailed out requesting all feedlot owners update their registration records. As you probably know, the feedlot program does not issue "operating permits" for current operations. Instead, permits are only issued when expansion or construction are proposed, or if a pollution problem is identified. Therefore, the re-registration process is repeated on a regular schedule to keep local feedlot records current.

After the last round of registrations, Stevens County had 156 actively registered feedlots. In order to remain active, each site must have livestock at least once every five years.

The re-registration process is fast and easy. If your site is actively registered, you will receive a form in the mail that has the current information already listed. If there are any changes to this information, all you need to do is write on the form what has changed and return the form to our office.

Feedlot owners are required to return the required paperwork in order to maintain compliance with Minnesota's Feedlot Rules. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has oversight of this important program to protect the valuable natural resources of our fine state! As always, if you have any questions about the process or are not sure if your site is currently registered, please contact Bill Kleindl to inquire.

Registration Requirements

- **10 or More AU within Shoreland Zone**
- **50 or More AU Outside of Shoreland Zone**

Central BI Products Rendering Services 1-800-767-2569

**Approximate Cost of
Pickup:
\$35 per stop or \$150
for a horse mortality**



**Low Interest Loans
Available!**

The Environmental Services Office has funding available for manure handling equipment and manure storage facilities (for feedlots with pollution threat). Easy application, fixed interest rates at 3%. Funding made possible by MN Department of Agriculture. Call for more details.

Did you know....

Manure from all manure storage areas of more than 100 animal units must be tested for nitrogen & phosphorus content at a minimum of once every four years. Exception: Test once per year for at least three years if manure is from a 300 or more animal unit storage and then every four years.

Rendering Services Available

When considering disposal of a dead animal, we recommend you investigate options for rendering services before burial to prevent contamination of shallow groundwater tables. Many areas in Stevens County have high groundwater levels, especially in the spring. Operators choosing to bury animals must select sites very carefully due to this high risk of groundwater contamination. The guide-

lines for burial of an animal mortality are as follows.

Buried carcasses must:

- Stay five (5) feet above seasonal high water table.
- Stay 1000' away from lakes and 300' away from rivers, streams, ditches, etc.
- Be covered immediately with enough soil to

keep scavengers out (Minnesota Board of Animal Health guidelines indicate three (3) feet is sufficient).

- Not be placed in sandy or gravelly soil types.

A telephone number for rendering service is listed to the left of this article. Call with any questions or to arrange for a pickup.

Manure Application and Record Keeping

Keeping records of certain manure application practices is required for all feedlot facilities with 100 or more animal units, even when a manure management plan is not required. Forms and spreadsheets for keeping required records are available from your county feedlot officer.

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 application records must be kept for the most recent three years, except that records must be kept for six years at NPDES 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 required record-keeping elements for other sizes of feedlots are also available from our office.

Where ownership of manure is transferred for application to fields not owned or leased by the feedlot owner, the manager of the cropland where manure is applied and the feedlot owner must keep records

where the manure is produced.

Commercial applicators spreading manure onto land not owned or leased by the owner of the feedlot from which the manure is produced shall also keep a copy of the records. A copy must be submitted to the owner of the animal feedlot or the manure storage area from which the manure is produced, not later than 60 days following land application.

If you have any questions about whether you need to keep records of your manure application or what information is required for your livestock operation, just call the county feedlot officer for more information.

