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STEVENS COUNTY MINNESOTA

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Stevens County 2015 Feedlot Newsletter

Feedlot Rule Requirements for Stockpiling Manure

Every year I seem to get complaints about stockpiling of manure and thought I should remind producers of the Feedlot Rule requirements again. Stockpiling is a common method of storing solid manure until it can be applied to cropland as fertilizer. The Minnesota Feedlot Rules Chapter 7020.2125 requires certain guidelines for stockpiling manure. They must be located, constructed and operated so that manure-contaminated runoff from the site does not discharge to waters of the state. Only solid manure can be stockpiled outside a barn or feedlot. The Feedlot Rules identify two types of stockpiling methods. Short-term and permanent stockpiles.

Short-term stockpiling of manure can only be stockpiled for up to one year of the date when it was initially established. A vegetative cover must be established for at least one full growing season prior to reuse. Owners need to maintain manure records that include: 1) location of the stockpile, 2) date which the stockpile was established, 3) volume of manure stockpiled, 4) nutrient analysis of the manure, and 5) when manure was land applied.

Permanent stockpiles are sites where manure is piled for more than one year or the same site is used year after year. These sites are required to be permitted and designed following Minnesota Rules 7020.2125, Subp. 4.

Please use the table below to ensure compliance when stockpiling your manure. I also ask you consider your neighbors when selecting a site and try not to pile near their house or at the end of their driveway. This usually drives the complaint.

Short-Term Manure Stockpile Requirements

Sensitive Feature	Requirement
Rock outcropping; Open tile intakes; Uncultivated wetland & other waters of the state; Sinkhole; Drainage Ditch; Road Right of Way; Rock quarries, Sand, Gravel Pit & other extractive uses	Setback of 300 ft of flow distance & at least 50 ft horizontal distance
Private well	Setback of 100 ft ¹
Protected lake, pond, or flowage (shoreland)	Setback of 1000 ft
Protected creek, river, or intermittent stream or landward of floodplain (shoreland)	Setback of 300 ft
Drain tile with less than 3 ft of soil cover	Setback of 100 ft
Community water supply wells serving schools and licensed day-care centers	Setback of 1000 ft if vulnerable or 200 ft if not vulnerable

¹ Setback increases to 200 ft if the well has less than 50 ft of watertight casing and is not cased through a confining layer at least 10 ft thick

Other Restrictions

- Stockpile must not exceed the agronomic needs of the crops on 320 acres
- Stockpile must be removed one year from the date it was established
- Must have vegetated cover or cropping history for at least one full growing season prior to re-use of the site *except if stockpiled for less than 10 consecutive days and no more than 6 times per year or within open lots with less than 100 animal units*
- Maintain 2 ft separation from the base of the stockpile to the seasonal high water table
- Stockpile must have at least 3 to 1 side slopes or 15% dry matter
- Soil texture to a depth of 5 ft below the stockpile must be no coarser than a sandy loam
- If on land with 2-6% slopes clean water diversions and erosion control practices must be used
- Stockpiling is prohibited on slopes greater than 6%



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.

Soil Testing...

For land receiving manure from feedlots with 300 or more animal units, soil samples must be taken from the upper 6 inches once every 4 years. These samples must be tested for phosphorus using the Bray P1 or the Olsen test.

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 my office for more information.



Odor Exemption (MN Rule 7020.2002)

The owner of an animal feedlot is exempt from the state ambient air quality standards during the removal of manure from barns or manure storage facilities if notification is provided to the County Feedlot Officer or the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. This exemption allows the ambient air quality standard to be exceeded for a maximum of 21 days in a calendar year for feedlots with 300 or more animal units. The notification can be done by phone, in person, or by submitting an air quality exemption form. The notification must include:

- The names of the owners or the legal name of the facility
- The location of the facility by county, township, section and quarter section
- The facilities permit number, if applicable
- The anticipated start date and the anticipated number of days of removal from barns or manure storage areas

Although you qualify for an exemption, always consider your neighbors and talk to them about your manure application plans. If possible, tell them how long it might take, how you plan to apply the manure and how long they might expect to smell the manure. Ask them about any events such as a graduation, wedding, etc. so you can avoid application prior to the event. Good communication is the key.