



# The Barnyard Buzz

## Carver County Feedlot Newsletter

The snow is melting, and the weather is starting to get warmer. Spring is rapidly approaching, and planting season is right around the corner. Farmers are preparing to haul and land apply manure onto cropland before corn, soybeans, and other crops are planted into the soil.

Carver County Environmental Services developed this Feedlot Newsletter to provide feedlot producers with informational articles and financial assistance opportunities. Department staff members welcome both your input and feedback to the information distributed in this newsletter. Carver County will gladly accept any photos of your livestock or feedlot operation that you would like to submit for future newsletters.

## Feedlot Registration Requirements

Carver County Code §54.30 (A) requires all feedlots of ten animal units or more to be registered with Carver County Environmental Services. Registration data is maintained by the Department for animal feedlots and manure storage areas. The registration data must include:

1. Date the registration form was completed.
2. Name and address of all owners of the animal feedlot or manure storage area.
3. Facility location according to township, county, section, and quarter section.
4. Permit or certificate number for owners who have been issued a county feedlot permit or certificate of compliance.
5. Types of animal holding areas including pastures, confinement barns, and open lots.
6. Number and types of animals.
7. Identity of surface waters within 1,000 feet of the facility.
8. Presence and type of manure storage areas.
9. Shortest distance from an animal holding area or manure storage area to a well.
10. The name of the person that completed the registration form.

Feedlot operators will be notified at least 90 days prior to the scheduled registration update deadline and Carver County will send a receipt of registration within 30 days of receiving the registration. Please contact me if you own and/or operate a feedlot that is not currently registered. It is essential that Carver County has a complete inventory of all active feedlots in the county, as setback requirements and zoning regulations apply.

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### Animal Unit Calculations

Animal Type	Animal Unit (AU) Factor
Dairy Cow > 1,000 lbs. (milked or dry)	1.4
Dairy Cow < 1,000 lbs. (milked or dry)	1.0
Dairy – Heifer	0.7
Beef – Slaughter/Stock/Bull	1.0
Beef – Feeder/Heifer	0.7
Beef & Dairy – Calf	0.2
Swine > 300 lbs.	0.4
Swine 55-300 lbs.	0.3
Swine < 55 lbs.	0.05
Horse	1.0
Sheep or Lamb	0.1
Chickens – liquid manure	0.033
Chickens – Broilers & Layers > 5 lbs.	0.005
Chickens – Broilers & Layers < 5 lbs.	0.003
Chickens – Layers > 5 lbs.	0.005
Turkeys > 5 lbs.	0.018
Turkeys < 5 lbs.	0.005
Ducks	0.01

## Feedlot Recordkeeping Requirements

In 2021, Carver County conducted 47 compliance inspections at feedlots required to register per Minnesota Rules Chapter 7020. The most common violation encountered was inadequate recordkeeping. Producers that operate feedlots with 100 animal units or more contributing to manure storage are required to sample and test manure at least once every four years. There are several certified manure testing laboratories in Minnesota. Please contact one of the certified laboratories listed and they will assist you in providing the results of your sample. Knowing the nutrient levels in manure that you apply is paramount in determining application rates and meeting the requirements of Minn. Rules Chapter 7020.2225, Subp. 2.

In addition to having manure analyses on file, Minnesota Rules Chapter 7020.2225, requires sites with 100 animal units or more that retain some manure ownership to have adequate land application records on file. Sites with 300 animal units or more must have a manure management plan and/or adequate transferred manure land application records available if some or all manure ownership is transferred.

Maintaining these records aides' producers in applying the proper amount of fertilizer onto cropland and decreases the likelihood of Nitrogen and Phosphorus overapplication. Please have these records accessible for inspections if they are a requirement for your facility.



### Certified Manure Testing Labs

Ag Resource Consulting Inc  
Albany, MN  
(320) 845-6321

Agvise Laboratories  
Benson, MN  
(320) 843-4109

International Ag Labs Inc  
Fairmont, MN  
(507) 235-6909

Minnesota DHIA Laboratories  
Sauk Centre, MN  
(320) 352-2028

Minnesota Valley Testing Labs Inc  
New Ulm, MN  
(507) 766-3319

### Manure Application Minimum Setbacks Near Waters

Physical Features	Surface Spread or Winter Application	Incorporation within 24 hours
Lakes*	300 feet	25 feet
Rivers or Streams*	300 feet	25 feet
Wetlands*	300 feet	25 feet
Drainage Ditches*	300 feet	25 feet
Open Tile Intakes	300 feet	0 feet
Mines and Quarries	50 feet	50 feet
Floodplain	Prohibited	Prohibited
Wells** (public)	300 feet	300 feet
Wells** (private)	100 feet	100 feet

\*Non-winter setbacks may be reduced from 300' to either 100' (lakes and perennial streams) or 50' (wetlands, drainage ditches, and intermittent streams) if permanent vegetative buffers of at least 100' or 50' wide are planted along the waters.

\*\* Sensitive water-supply well setbacks must be twice the indicated distance.

## Short-Term Manure Stockpiling

Many farmers are without a permanent stockpile site for manure storage. Without a manure storage structure, producers stockpile domestic waste near their feedlot, or on cropland where it will be land applied. Violations relating to short-term stockpiles are encountered frequently, and it is important to be aware of the regulations. Pursuant to Minn. Rules 7020. 2125, Subp. 2, short-term manure stockpiles cannot be stored in the same location for longer than one year, as they must be removed, and land applied at agronomic rates. Before the stockpile site can be used again, a vegetative cover must be established on the site for at least one full growing season. To avoid runoff conditions or pose a pollution hazard, farmers must choose a stockpiling location that meets the minimum required setbacks from waters of the state, road ditches, and water supply wells.

### Minimum Required Setbacks for Short-term Stockpiles

- 300 feet of flow distance and at least 50 feet horizontal distance to surface water, sinkholes, rock outcroppings, open tile intakes, and any uncultivated wetlands which are not seeded to annual farm crops or crop rotations involving perennial grasses or forages.
- 300 feet of flow distance to any road ditch that flows to the features identified above or 50 feet of any road ditch where Number 1 does not apply.
- 100 feet of any private water supply or unused-unsealed well and 200 feet from any private well with less than 50 feet of watertight casing and that is not cased through a confining layer at least ten feet thick.
- 100 feet from field drain tile that is three feet or less from the soil surface.



## Livestock Feeding on Pasture

The Carver County countryside contains a significant amount of land for livestock to graze on pasture. Minnesota Rules Chapter 7020.0300 defines pastures as areas where grass or other vegetation is used for grazing and where the concentration of animals allows vegetative cover to be maintained during the growing season, except in the immediate vicinity of temporary supplemental feeding or watering devices. Pastures are exempt from Minnesota's Feedlot Rules, however they must comply with other state rules that regulate water quality.

Producers who utilize this feeding technique should locate sites away from sensitive areas and manage pasture areas to avoid any manure contaminated runoff from entering waters of the state. Feed bunks and water tanks should be periodically moved to avoid manure accumulation and overgrazing. If pasture grasses become stripped and the land is bare, the location then becomes a feedlot and Minnesota's Feedlot Rules become pertinent.

Pastures provide a beneficial feeding management strategy, can reduce lameness for livestock, and help to improve soil health. For more information on pasture and grazing management practices visit: [www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us) and search "Pasture".

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### Chapter 54: Feedlot Management

Carver County Environmental Services is currently in the process of proposing amendments to Chapter 54: Feedlot Management of the Carver County Code of Ordinances. Staff are proposing amendments to the feedlot ordinance in order to align with Minnesota Rules Chapter 7020. Proposed amendments are not any more restrictive than current regulations.

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## Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) began statewide operations in July 2015. This program certifies producers who have adopted best management practices and conduct their operation in a way that protects and improves water quality.

There is a financial assistance grant available through this program that offers up to \$5,000.00 to eligible farmers implementing best management practices. Participants involved in the program that implement and maintain approved best management practices will be certified and acquire regulatory certainty for a period of ten years.

This program assures the public that certified farmers are using conservation practices to protect lakes, rivers, and streams in Minnesota. The program also provides many benefits for producers including; regulatory certainty, recognition, and priority for technical assistance.

If you would like more information on the program or would like to certify your farm, please contact the Carver County Soil and Water Conservation District or the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

**Carver County SWCD:** (952) 466-5230

**Caroline D'Huyvetter, MDA:** (651) 201-6481



## Feedlot and Manure Storage Area Closures

Carver County contains numerous feedlots that are inactive. While some producers plan to resume operation in the future, others have no intent of bringing livestock back to the farm. When a producer has no plans of continuing a feedlot operation in the future, the feedlot and/or manure storage structure will need to go through the permanent closure process.

Minn. Rules Chapter 7020.2025 requires feedlot owners to remove all manure and land apply at agronomic rates within one year of permanently closing a facility or manure storage area. Within 60 days of completing permanent closure, all feedlot owners are required to submit a certified letter to the County Feedlot Officer or MPCA stating the name and location of the facility and identify the feedlot components that have been closed permanently.

The National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers technical and financial assistance to decommission a liquid manure storage area through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). If you have any questions or are interested in applying for financial assistance to close a waste storage facility, please contact the local NRCS field office:

**Katie Mattila:**  
**(612) 607-0211**  
[katelyn.mattila@usda.gov](mailto:katelyn.mattila@usda.gov)



### **Special Waste Collections**

**Saturday, May 21st, 2022**

8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Central High School Parking Lot  
531 Morse Street  
Norwood Young America

**Saturday, Sept 17th, 2022**

8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Carver County Hollywood Public Works  
3480 Co Rd 21  
Hollywood Township

### **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event**

**Saturday, May 7th, 2022**

8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Watertown Township Shed  
3580 County Road 10 N  
Watertown, MN 55388

For more information, please contact our office or visit our website:

### **Carver County Environmental Services**

Phone: 952-361-1800  
[www.recyclecarver.org](http://www.recyclecarver.org)

Matt Steele  
Carver County Feedlot Officer  
Office: (952) 361-1808  
Mobile: (612) 257-0019  
[msteele@co.carver.mn.us](mailto:msteele@co.carver.mn.us)

## Mission Statement

*"The Carver County Environmental Services Department is committed to protecting the environment through public service, education, and innovation."*

*The MPCA is a sponsoring agency with a grant supporting a portion of the delegated Carver County feedlot program. Carver County does not claim that MPCA endorses its products or services.*



### Acceptable items:

- Agriculture and grain bags
- Boat film
- Greenhouse film and covers
- Hockey rink liners
- Stretch wrap

### Unacceptable items:

- Twine
- Bale wrap and net wrap
- Woven grain bags or covers
- Scrim
- Plastic containers
- Dirt, rocks, leaves, or tires

## AGRI Livestock Investment Grant

The Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Grant provides an opportunity for livestock producers to develop, improve, and modernize their feedlot operations. This is a great opportunity for feedlot operators looking to improve or construct new components of their feedlot.

### Applicant Eligibility

- In good standing with the state of Minnesota (no back taxes).
- Current Minnesota residency or a business entity that has authorization to farm in Minnesota.
- The principal operator of the farm.

### Project Eligibility

- Buildings or facilities for the production of livestock or livestock products.
- Development of pasture for use by livestock, including but not limited to lanes, watering systems, and fences.
- Equipment for livestock housing, confinement, feeding, and waste management.

### Grant Award Amount

- The MDA reimburses 10% of the first \$250,000 of an eligible investment.
- For each project, the maximum grant amount available per fiscal year is \$25,000.
- Only one grant is available per project, and the lifetime maximum per farm is \$50,000.
- There will be two rounds of funding. One in the spring and one in the fall.

The application period is now open. The deadline for proposals to be considered is **Tuesday, April 5, 2022**.

Please visit [www.mda.state.mn.us](http://www.mda.state.mn.us) and search "AGRI Livestock Investment Grant" to find out more information and complete an application online. Please note that you will need to create an online account before completing an application.

If you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact Carver County UMN Extension Services or the Minnesota Department of Agriculture:

**Colleen Carlson, UM Ext Carver Cnty:**  
(952) 466-5300  
[traxl042@umn.edu](mailto:traxl042@umn.edu)

**Courtney VanderMey, MDA:**  
(651) 201-6135  
[courtney.vandermey@state.mn.us](mailto:courtney.vandermey@state.mn.us)

## Carver County Ag Plastic Recycling Program

Carver County offers a free innovative recycling program for dairy farmers, beef producers, greenhouse operators, marinas, and backyard ice rink businesses. Thanks to a partnership between Carver County Environmental Services, Revolution Plastics and the University of Minnesota Extension Office, local farmers recycled 29,000 pounds of plastics in 2021. With this innovative free recycling program, agricultural, marine and greenhouse plastics destined for landfills or burn barrels can be recycled, while simultaneously reducing disposal fees.

Participants in the program are able to pick up free packs of recapture bags that serve as a way to collect their plastics. Each recapture bag is designed to hold approximately 200 pounds of plastics, and participants are responsible for filling the 8 foot by 10 foot bags with their plastics.

The spring collection will be held from April 1st through May 31st at the Carver County Public Works Facility, 11360 US-212, Cologne. Drop-off times are 8:00 am - 4:30 pm on Monday through Friday. Be sure to schedule a drop-off time with Matt Steele at least 48 hours in advance. The fall collection dates are September 1st through October 31st.

Free collection bags can be obtained at:

1. Mid-County Coop, 700 Lake Street West, Cologne
2. Carver County Extension Office, 11360 US-212, Ste 4, Cologne
3. Carver County SWCD, 11360 US-212, Ste 6, Cologne
4. Carver County Government Center, 600 E. 4th St, Chaska

Please contact me with any questions or if you would like to schedule a starter pack drop-off.

**Matt Steele, Carver County Feedlot Officer**  
Office: (952) 361-1808  
Mobile: (612) 257-0019  
[msteele@co.carver.mn.us](mailto:msteele@co.carver.mn.us)