

The Barnyard Buzz

Dairy Business Planning Grants

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) recently announced that there are grants available to help cover business planning costs for new and existing dairy farmers.

Grants cover 50% of the cost up to \$5,000, to employ a qualified and independent third party to create a business plan for a dairy operation or test for stray voltage. The applicant is responsible for the other 50% of the cost. These grants have historically been used to evaluate the feasibility of implementing environmental upgrades, expanding an operation, and creating strategies to transfer ownership of an operation.

To access the full eligibility requirements and the application, visit www.mda.state.mn.us and search "Dairy Business Planning Grants". If you have any questions, please contact Kami Schoenfeld by calling 651-201-6643 or emailing kami.schoenfeld@state.mn.us.

Livestock Equipment Loan Program

Funding for equipment for animal housing, confinement, animal feeding, milk production, and waste management is available through the Livestock Equipment Loan Program with the Rural Finance Authority (RFA). The program was established to help feedlot producers finance the purchase of equipment for livestock.

The RFA will work with a local lending institution to provide an equipment loan to candidates who meet eligibility requirements for up to 90% of the purchased equipment value. Participation is limited to 45% of the principal amount of the loan or \$100,000, whichever is less. The loan repayment period is for a maximum of ten years.

Some eligible expenditures include; fences, scales, watering facilities, milking parlors, hoop barns, and portable structures. To access the full list of eligible expenditures and eligibility requirements, visit www.mda.state.mn.us and search "Livestock Equipment Loan Program". If you have any questions about the program, please contact the RFA by calling 651-201-6004 or emailing RFA.Loans@state.mn.us.

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Carver County Environmental Services

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Industrial By-product Land Application

An industrial by-product (IBP) is a residual material from an industrial, agricultural, commercial, or mining operation that is not a primary product and not produced separately in the process. Some examples of IBPs include; vegetable, dairy, and meat processing wastes, solids/residuals from pretreatment of wastewater, and livestock truckwash solids and washwater. IBPs are classified as solid waste under Minnesota Rules, but IBPs from agricultural operations typically contain nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and other nutrients that are beneficial for land application.

While land applying IBPs reduces the use of commercial fertilizer and water, it can also be detrimental for surface water or groundwater if too much is applied. Best management practices and permit requirements must be followed in order to protect water from contamination.

A permit is typically required for land application of more than 50,000 gallons or 10 dry tons of IBP per year or the volume of storage could create an environmental concern. A Type IV-certified land applicator must perform land application of IBP if a permit is required. If land application is under that threshold, a notification form for land application projects that don't require an MPCA permit must be submitted for approval.

Industrial By-product Waste Storage

Storage of IBP without a permit for land application is very limited. If a permit is not required, IBP may be stored at the application site temporarily or transferred to a manure storage structure.

Before using a manure storage structure to store IBP, written authorization from the MPCA and County Feedlot Officer in delegated counties must be given. A Transfer to Manure Storage application must be submitted for approval. When this policy is used, the resulting mixture of materials land applied will be managed as manure and regulated under the requirements for manure management.

The feedlot must be in compliance with Minnesota's Animal Feedlot Rules and manure management requirements. A minimum of three feet of freeboard is required for any storage structure exposed to the weather and/or collects runoff from an open lot. A maximum of 50,000 gallons or up to ten percent of the available structure volume, whichever is greater, is allowed to be transferred during each six month period of the cropping year. A second transfer to the manure storage area during the cropping year is also subject to the same volume threshold.

Sampling and analysis of the mixture must occur prior to land application, applied at agronomic rates, and in compliance with Minnesota Rules Chapter 7020.2225. Records must be maintained identifying the waste type, transfers in and out of the storage structure, waste generator, and quantities. The Manure Management Plan (MMP) must also identify the operations associated with the IBP transfer, storage, and application. A copy of the analysis and the total quantity transferred into and out of the manure storage area must be submitted to the MPCA by the industry annually.

IBP Transfer to Manure Storage Approval Procedure

1. An "Industrial By-Product Transfer to Manure Storage" application form is submitted by the Permittee to the appropriate county or MPCA feedlot official notifying them of the industry's intent to transfer IBP to the manure storage structure.
2. The County feedlot official completes and signs applicable portions of the form in delegated counties, or appropriate MPCA feedlot staff member in non-delegated counties.
3. A copy of the signed form is submitted to the township or city where the structure is located, and the MPCA.
4. The MPCA notifies the appropriate regional MPCA feedlot staff.
5. Written approval is sent to the Permittee by the MPCA, if no problems are identified during this process.



Managing Heat Stress In Cattle

We've already seen high temperatures this year and cattle are at risk of heat stress once it reaches 80 degrees and the risk becomes greater when temps exceed 90 degrees.

High temperature and humidity are the main cause of heat stress for cattle. Wind speed and sunlight also affect heat stress in livestock. It is important for producers to provide enough clean water, reduce the amount of time cattle spend in holding pens, move them slowly, and use holding pens that offer shade to reduce heat stress.

In order to reduce heat stress for feedlot cattle long-term, producers can use sprinklers to reduce discomfort when it's hot and humid. It's also important to provide 20 to 40 feet of shade per head and avoid overcrowding.

If you'd like more information on managing heat stress for your livestock, please visit <https://extension.umn.edu> and search "Managing Heat Stress in Feedlot Cattle". The University of Minnesota Extension website also has more information on managing heat stress in other species of livestock.



Nutrient Management Planning on the Farm

When it comes to effective nutrient management there is not a universal solution for all operations. A nutrient management plan needs to be tailored to the specific farm and based on site-specific factors such as: soil, climate, crops, and management. An effective nutrient management plan will consider the 4Rs of nutrient stewardship which consists of the right source, right method, right rate, and right timing of application. By incorporating these nutrient stewardship principles into your planning, crop yields will be optimized while also reducing adverse impacts to the environment.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers voluntary programs and financial assistance with nutrient management planning. Through a variety of programs, producers can work individually with NRCS or Technical Service Providers (TSPs) to develop baseline nutrient management plans, which will analyze nutrient needs, evaluate site-specific risks for nutrient losses, and discuss opportunities to address those risks. The cost of inputs these days are high enough. Managing nutrients more effectively on the farm doesn't need to require a huge investment. Through these voluntary programs, NRCS offers financial assistance to implement methods such as in-season plant tissue testing, utilization of enhanced efficiency fertilizer products, and split application of nutrients. Technical and financial assistance is also available to assist with the planning, design, and implementation of practices that require a larger investment upfront, such as livestock waste storage facilities.

If interested in learning more about opportunities available to improve nutrient management on your farm, please contact the local NRCS office at 612-607-0211.



Preventing Runoff During Land Application

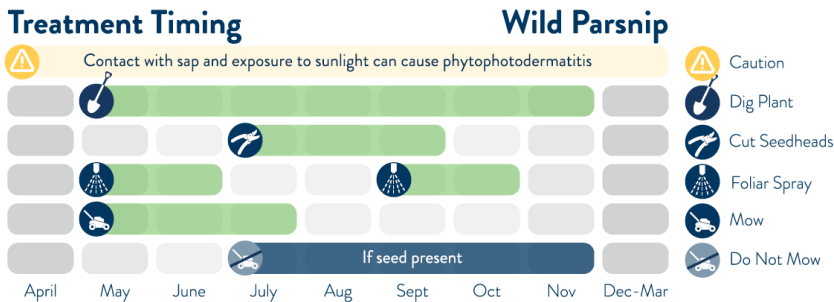
- Avoid surface applying manure within 300 feet of surface waters unless it is immediately incorporated.
- Avoid steep slopes. Don't apply solid manure on slopes greater than 6%. Avoid applying liquid manure on 2% slopes.
- Keep away from flood or floodway zones during application.
- Avoid manure application to frozen or snow-covered soils.
- Avoid application before a rain event.
- Submit manure analyses to know nutrient contents and apply at agronomic rates.



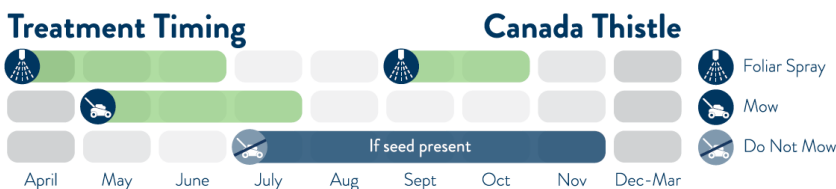
Common Noxious Weeds in Carver County

The Noxious Weed Law affects growing plants. Plants are identified as noxious because of the harm that they can cause to people, animals, food, and the environment. Below are two types of common noxious weeds in Carver County and how to treat them:

Wild Parsnip (Pastinaca sativa L.) is an herbaceous monocarpic perennial commonly found on disturbed sites such as roadsides and abandoned fields or lots. It can occur in wet meadows, but dry soils are more typical. Wild Parsnip is a phytophotodermatitis plant meaning contact with the sap and exposure to sunlight can produce painful, burning blisters. Appropriate protective clothing including gloves, goggles, and long sleeve shirts should be worn and avoid contact with stems. Effective herbicide formulations for wild parsnip include 2,4-D, dicamba + 2,4-D, aminocyclopyrachlor + chlorosulfuron, glyphosate, and metsulfuron.



Canada Thistle (Cirsium arvense L. Scop.) is an herbaceous perennial commonly found in disturbed areas such as roadsides and old fields, but will also move into open wood – lands and prairies. Canada Thistle can be identified by the alternating leaves that are generally lance – shaped with toothed, spiny edges. Thistles typically boom from June to October and are further identified by purple and pinkish small florets located at the top of the plant. Effective herbicide formulations include aminopyralid, clopyralid, and metsulfuron.

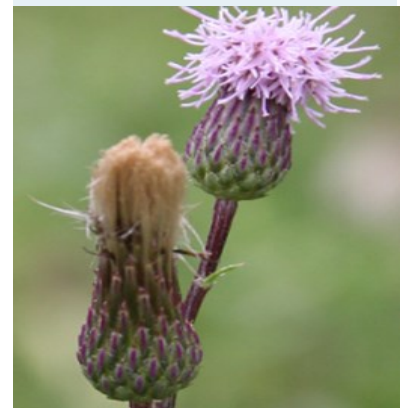


For more information on other types of noxious weeds, please visit www.mda.state.mn.us and search "Minnesota Noxious Weed List". If you have any questions about noxious weeds on your property, please contact Jacob McLain by calling 952-361-1801 or emailing jmclain@co.carver.mn.us.



Noxious Weeds in Minnesota

- 57 plant species are regulated as noxious weeds and specially regulated plants in Minnesota.
- There are 32 species on the prohibited noxious weed list. 16 are on the eradicate list and 16 are on the control list.
- Wild Parsnip and Canada Thistle are both classified as prohibited control.
- There are also 19 species of restricted noxious weeds and 6 species that are specially regulated.



Spring 2023 Agricultural Plastic Recycling Collection

- Carver County collected a total of 15,000 lbs. of plastics during the spring collection.



- The fall collection will be held from September 1st through October 31st at the Carver County Public Works Facility.



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.

General Notice to Control or Eradicate Noxious Weeds

A general weed notice was published April 14, 2023, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.83, Subdivision 1 (2013), that all persons in Carver County, Minnesota, shall control or eradicate all noxious weeds on land they own, occupy or are required to maintain. Control or eradication may be accomplished by any lawful method, but the method(s) applied may need to be repeated in order to prevent the spread of viable noxious weed seeds and other propagating parts to other lands. Failure to comply with the general notice may mean that an individual notice, Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.83, Subdivision 2 (2013), will be issued. An individual notice may be appealed within two working days of receipt to the appeal committee in the county where the land is located. Failure to comply with an individual notice will mean that the inspector having jurisdiction may either hire the work done or seek a misdemeanor charge against the person(s) who failed to comply. If the work is contracted for hire by the inspector, the cost can be placed as a tax upon the land and collected as other real estate taxes are collected.

More information regarding the MN Noxious Weed Law can be obtained from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's website by visiting www.mda.state.mn.us and searching "Noxious and Invasive Weed Program".

How Does Soil Health Increase Resilience to Drought & Extreme Rainfall

Extreme weather events, such as extended drought and heavy rainfall, are out of landowners' control; however effective soil health management systems can better manage how they prepare for and react to these circumstances.

Healthy soil allows more water to infiltrate and retains more moisture, allowing it to absorb extreme rainfall as well as support crops during droughts. Adopting soil health systems before extreme events hit can save farmers significant time and money in the long run and preserve the life of their soils for many years to come.

Employing soil health systems by using practices such as no-till and cover crops, can help stabilize yields, improve agricultural productivity, and build resiliency through increased soil organic carbon content and soil water storage. These practices also benefit the environment, reducing nutrients lost through run-off, and acting as a natural filter for our waterways.

Adopting new management practices can bring challenges. Most start out small and then adopt more and more gradually over time. However, one thing is for sure – our environment is changing. With the increasing severity and frequency of drought, heavy rain, elevated temperatures, market fluctuations, and many other factors outside of a farmer's control, it makes sense to adjust management practices to help meet those challenges.

The Carver Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Soil Health Cost Share Program was created with these challenges in mind. Landowners and cooperators can access cost-share and incentive payments from Carver SWCD through the Soil Health cost share program for implementation of soil health practices. Contact the Carver SWCD office at 952-466-5230 to find out more.

Feedlots in Shoreland

Fall Special Waste Collection

Saturday, September 16, 2023

8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Hollywood Township Public Works
3480 Co Rd 21
Hollywood Township

Materials Accepted (No Charge)

- Automotive Products
- Batteries
- Electronics
- Fluorescent Bulbs
- Household Hazardous Waste
- Scrap Metal

Materials Accepted (For a Fee)

- Appliances - \$10.00/item
- Bicycles - \$3.00/item
- Televisions & Monitors - \$10.00/item
- Small engine devices - \$5.00/item
- Car, truck, & SUV tires - \$3.00 each
- Semi truck/trailer, large tires - \$8.00 each
- Large tractor tires - \$25.00 each

Materials Not Accepted

- Business hazardous waste
- Construction and demolition debris
- Furniture
- Mattresses and box springs
- Trash and garbage
- Wood

For more information, please visit www.recyclecarver.org or contact Mike Mrotz by calling 952-361-1809 or emailing mmrotz@co.carver.mn.us.



The main objective of the feedlot program is to protect and improve water quality. Feedlots located in the shoreland pose the highest risk of pollution potential. Other significant goals of the program include; registering all feedlots capable of holding 50 or more animal units or 10 animal units within shoreland areas, focus on animal feedlots and manure storage areas with the greatest potential for environmental impact, and to maintain agency and delegated-county staff field presence.

Carver County currently has approximately 43 feedlots with 10 animal units or more located in the shoreland district. The shoreland district is defined as land located within 1,000 feet of the ordinary high water level of a lake, pond or flowage; and 300 feet from a river or stream as designated on the Carver County Zoning Map or the landward side of floodplain delineated by ordinance on such a river or stream, whichever is greater.

Minnesota Rules Chapter 7020.2005 restricts the establishment of any new feedlots of 10 animal units or more in shoreland. Existing animal feedlots may not expand to a capacity of 1,000 animal units or more. Existing feedlots and manure storage areas located in a floodplain may not expand.

Pastures are an exception to location restrictions and are not subject to Minnesota's Animal Feedlot Rules. Pasture operations must still abide by Minnesota Rules Chapter 7050, prohibiting pollution to waters of the state.

In order for a new feedlot with less than 10 animal units proposed to be built or constructed in shoreland, the feedlot must comply with the following MPCA policy:

1. The facility must have an animal unit capacity less than 10 AU at all times. No expansions to 10 AU or above are allowed in the future.
2. The owner must complete the MPCA Notice of construction or Expansion Form and submit a copy to MPCA or the delegated County Feedlot Officer.
3. The owner shall establish, operate, and maintain the facility such that there is no discharge to surface waters in accordance with Minn. R. 7020.2003.
4. The owner must prevent livestock and poultry housed at the facility from having access to surface waters in accordance with Minn. R. 7020..2015.
5. The owner shall comply with all requirements of Minn. R. Ch. 7020 as they apply to storage and disposal of manure generated at the facility.
6. The MPCA or County Feedlot Officer may request that the owner submit plans and specifications for review.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the proposal of a new feedlot under 10 animal units in shoreland, please contact Matt Steele by calling 952-361-1808 or emailing msteele@co.carver.mn.us.

