



# The Barnyard Buzz

## Livestock Expansion Loan Program

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is offering a loan program that has been developed to assist livestock and dairy producers finance the construction of state-of-the-art facilities is offered through the Rural Finance Authority (RFA).

Improvements to a feedlot operation by construction or installation of improvements to land and permanent structures, as well as equipment that is incorporated or permanently affixed to the land, buildings, or structures, which are intended for the purpose of raising livestock are eligible purchases for this program.

The applicant will work with their local lender to jointly complete an application for RFA participation. The RFA must have a completed Master Participation Agreement with the lender on file and the RFA may participate on a loan up to 45% of the loan principal up to \$525,000, with a participation term up to a maximum of 10 years.

An applicant must meet the following requirements:

1. Be a Minnesota resident, a Minnesota domestic family farm corporation, or a family farm partnership.
2. One of the applicants must be the principal operator of the farm and be actively engaged in a livestock operation.
3. Have a total net worth not to exceed \$2,082,000 in 2023. Net worth includes assets and liabilities of applicant's spouse and dependents.

If you have a feedlot of 50 animal units or more and plan to expand your operation, please contact Matt Steele, as a Construction Short-Form Permit must be issued before construction activities begin, and other requirements may apply.

To access more information about the program, visit [www.mda.state.mn.us](http://www.mda.state.mn.us) and search "Livestock Expansion 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](mailto:RFA.Loans@state.mn.us).

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### Carver County Environmental Services

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

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



### **Caring for Your Horse in Winter**

- Provide warm water (45° - 65° degrees F).
- Feed additional hay during extreme cold.
- Make sure there is access to shelter.
- Perform regular hoof care.
- Assess your horse's body condition regularly.
- Evaluate your facility's stability and ventilation.



## 2024 Feedlot Producer Workshop

Carver County Environmental Services will be hosting the annual Feedlot Producer Workshop in February or March of 2024. The workshop is designed to provide feedlot operators with educational topics and resources that are beneficial for farming practices and livestock production.

Presenters will include; Carver County Environmental Services, Carver County SWCD, NRCS, and the University of Minnesota, Extension. Stay tuned for more details in the coming months.



***Feedlot Producer Workshop held on February 14, 2023 at the Carver County Public Works Facility***

### **Preparing Cattle for Severe Winter Weather**

- Cattle expected to live outside during the winter should remain outside to adjust to the changing conditions as winter approaches.
- A windbreak is the single most important factor for the success of your cattle riding out severe winter weather .
- Building a defined bedded pack behind your windbreak is one of the best ways to provide a dry place for your cattle.
- Stable body condition through the winter months will ensure cattle are best prepared to ride out severe winter weather when it happens.
- In extreme cold, cattle require more calories to maintain their body condition and stay warm.
- During severe winter weather, water access can be compromised and should be checked daily in the winter months.

For more information, please visit <https://extension.umn.edu> and search "Preparing your cattle for severe winter weather".

## Agricultural Plastic Recycling Program

Thanks to a partnership between Carver County Environmental Services, Revolution Plastics, and the University of Minnesota Extension, local participants recycled a total of **29,000 lbs.** of plastics in 2023.

Stay tuned for collection details in 2024.



### Special Waste Collections

#### **Saturday, May 18, 2024**

8:00 am to 12:00 pm  
Carver County Public Works  
11360 US Hwy 212 Cologne,  
MN 55322

#### **Saturday, September 14, 2024**

8:00 am to 12:00 pm  
Hollywood Township Public  
Works 3480 Co Rd 21  
Hollywood Township

For more information, please contact Mike Mrotz by calling 952-361-1809 or emailing [mmrotz@co.carver.mn.us](mailto:mmrotz@co.carver.mn.us).

## Beef Quality Assurance

Beef Quality Assurance is a nationally coordinated, state implemented program that provides systematic information to U.S. beef producers and beef consumers of how common-sense husbandry techniques can be coupled with accepted scientific knowledge to raise cattle under optimum management and environmental conditions.

BQA guidelines are designed to make certain all beef consumers can take pride in what they purchase – and can trust and have confidence in the entire beef industry. Today, the stakes are even higher because the full beef supply chain is leveraging BQA to ensure our commitment to food safety, animal welfare, and beef quality

The University of Minnesota Extension will be hosting the online trainings at 7 p.m. through 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 and Tuesday, April 9, 2024. There is no cost associated with the webinar, and producers attending this free workshop will receive a three-year BQA certification. Please visit <https://extension.umn.edu> and search “Beef Quality Assurance” to register for the event. For more information, please contact Colleen Carlson by calling 507-521-3640 or emailing [traxl042@umn.edu](mailto:traxl042@umn.edu).



## 2024 Carver County Dairy and Beef Expo

The University of Minnesota Extension and the Carver County Dairy Core Team have recently announced that the Annual Carver County Dairy and Beef Expo will be held at 9:00 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. on Monday, February 19, 2024, at a new location this year. The event will now be held at Central Elementary School, which is located at 655 W 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Norwood Young America, MN 55368.

The expo costs \$15.00, which includes the meal. Stay tuned for more information, as the event schedule and details are coming soon. Stay up to date with the most current information about the Dairy and Beef Expo by visiting <https://z.umn.edu/24DairyBeefExpo>.

If you have questions, please contact Colleen Carlson by calling 507-521-3640 or emailing [traxl042@umn.edu](mailto:traxl042@umn.edu) or Rita Yetzer by calling 952-466-5313 or emailing [ryetzer@co.carver.mn.us](mailto:ryetzer@co.carver.mn.us).



### **Follow the 4 C's of Manure Spill Response**

- 1. Control**
- 2. Contain**
- 3. Comply**
- 4. Clean up**



### **Duty Officer Reporting:**

- Operator's contact Info
- Location, date, and time of spill
- Type and amount of material released
- Surface water or field tile that may be affected
- Steps that were taken after the spill and what needs to be done yet

## Practices for Successful Manure Application

After fall harvest is over, farmers are focusing on land applying manure and should follow the following practices to get the most value from manure and protect surface water:

- 1. Check manure hauling equipment and the weather forecast.**
  - A. Check manure hauling equipment for broken hoses, loose connections, leaking valves, and gaskets.
  - B. Listen to the weather forecast and refrain from applying if rain is on the way.
- 2. Observe sensitive features.**
  - A. Locate sensitive features in fields and any within 300 feet of field borders.
  - B. Sensitive features with a setback include: Lakes, rivers, intermittent and perennial streams, sinkholes, drainage ditches with side inlets or without berms, and open tile inlets.
  - C. All manure applications within 300 feet of a sensitive feature must be incorporated within 24 hours and before it rains.
- 3. Review manure application rates**
  - A. Follow University of MN-Extension agronomic recommendations for calculating manure rates and nutrient needs.
  - B. Manure application rates should be adjusted based on changes to:
    1. Manure test results
    2. Application method
    3. Crop rotations
    4. Legume credits
    5. Previous applications of manure will have carry over nitrogen
    6. All nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizer has to be accounted for in your plan
  - C. Wait to apply manure on coarse textures soils until soil temperatures are below 50 degrees.
  - D. Use of a nitrogen inhibitor can reduce nitrogen losses on early applications.
- 4. Be prepared for an accident**
  - A. If you do have a spill or equipment failure that results in a spill:
    1. First make sure all personal are safe.
    2. If possible stop the source of the spill, such as shutting off a valve, driving a vehicle onto a drag line hose, or shutting off the pump.
    3. Stop the spill from moving off-site and into a sensitive feature.
    4. Use tillage to slow progress of spill towards sensitive features in fields; build a dirt berm, or use hay, straw or corn stalk bales to absorb the spill.
    5. Plug culverts and open tile inlets.
    6. Call for assistance such as a septic vacuum truck to suck up the spill.
    7. Review your emergency response plan.
  - B. If any spill occurs, call the Minnesota Duty Officer at 1-800-422-0798.

## Livestock Carcass Disposal

In order to ensure that feedlot producers are in compliance with mortality management area discharge requirements, County Feedlot Officers (CFOs) and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) staff review mortality management methods during inspections to ensure that process wastewater from an animal mortality management area is not a pollution hazard to groundwater or surface waters.

Although CFOs and MPCA staff review animal mortality requirements, the Board of Animal Health (BAH) is the primary authority regulating carcass disposal in Minnesota. Large feedlots that hold a NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Permit are required to have an Animal Mortality Plan for their facility. The NPDES Permit states; disposing in liquid manure storage areas is prohibited, disposal must not cause a discharge to surface or groundwater, and records of disposal management and practices shall be maintained. Below are the legal methods of disposal for livestock:

### Licensed Rendering Companies

1. Central Bi-Products
2. D & J Rendering
3. Darling International
4. Hormel Foods Corporation
5. JBS Swift and Company
6. Klarenbeek and Son Rendering
7. Leroy Job Trucking
8. Sanimax
9. T-N-T Rendering
10. Woodpecker Product Inc.
11. Worthington Rendering Company



### Setback Requirements for Carcass Burial

- 50 feet from any property line boundary
- 50 feet from any tile drainage line
- 150 feet from any water supply well
- 300 feet from any stream or river
- 300 feet from any wetland
- 1,000 feet from any pond or lake

- ◇ **Rendering** - Carcasses left at an off-site pickup point must meet the following requirements:
  - A. Be kept in an animal-proof, enclosed area;
  - B. At least 200 yards from a neighbor's buildings;
  - C. Mortalities must be picked up within 72 hours;
  - D. If the enclosed area is refrigerated to less than 45 degrees Fahrenheit, the carcasses must be picked up within seven days.

- ◇ **Composting** - The composting process must meet the following:
  - A. Mortalities must be processed daily;
  - B. A base of litter is required. The carcasses or discarded animal parts and litter + bulking agent are added in layers so that the carbon to nitrogen ratio is between 15:1 and 30:1. The optimal C/N ratio is 23:1;
  - C. The carcasses or discarded animal parts must be kept six (6) inches from the edges and sealed with litter each day;
  - D. The temperature must be taken and recorded on site daily. The compost temperature must reach a minimum of 130 degrees Fahrenheit. Approximately seven (7) to ten (10) days are needed in each heat cycle to process the carcasses and kill the pathogens;
  - E. The finished compost must not contain visible pieces of soft tissue and must be handled, stored, and used according to all other applicable rules.
  - F. Compost piles must be built on an impervious, weight-bearing pad that is rot-resistant and large enough for equipment to maneuver;
  - G. Must be large enough to handle each day's normal mortality through the endpoint of the composting, which consists of a minimum of two (2) heat cycles.

- ◇ **Incineration** - Incinerators must be:
  - A. Permitted by MPCA to accept carcasses;
  - B. Capable of producing emissions not to exceed 20 percent opacity;
  - C. Fitted with an afterburner that maintains flue gases at 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit for at least 0.3 seconds;
  - D. Ash from the incinerator must be handled in a manner to prevent particulates from becoming airborne.

- ◇ **Burial** - Buried carcasses must meet the following:
  - A. 5 feet above the seasonal high groundwater table and 10 feet above bedrock;
  - B. Be covered immediately with enough soil (3 feet) to keep scavengers out;
  - C. Avoid sandy or gravelly soil types;
  - D. Carcass burial sites shall not be located in: karst features, sinkholes, disappearing streams, or caves.

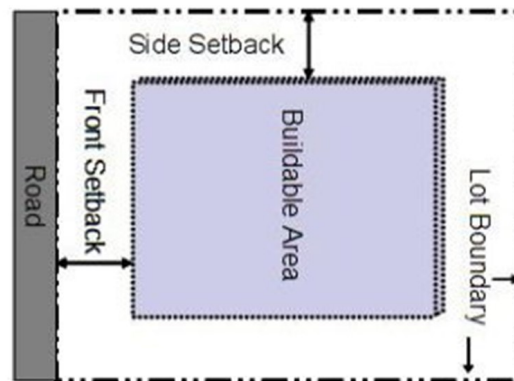
## Setback Requirements for Feedlots

A new feedlot of 10 animal units or more must maintain a setback of 200 feet from rear, front, and side property lines. A setback of 1,000 feet applies to new feedlots of 30 animal units or more from residences, churches, schools, regional parks, cemeteries, non-agricultural commercial activities, and restaurants. This setback is reciprocal for new residences and the other establishments listed above.

Owners and/or operators of a proposed feedlot, that also own the residences, churches, schools, regional parks, cemeteries, non-agricultural commercial activities, and restaurants are exempt from the setback requirement. This exemption is also reciprocal.

Modifications and/or expansions of existing animal feedlots established as of July 7, 2003, that are located within 200 feet of existing property lines, may be allowed if they do not further encroach on the established setback. Modifications or expansions of existing animal feedlots that are located within 1,000 feet of residences, churches, schools, regional parks, cemeteries, non-agricultural commercial activities, and restaurants may be allowed if the modification and/or expansion does not further encroach on the established setback. This setback is reciprocal as well.

Feedlots established after July 7, 2003 consisting of fewer than 30 animal units, that are located within 1,000 feet of residences, churches, schools, regional parks, cemeteries, non-agricultural commercial and industrial activities, and restaurants shall not be allowed to expand to greater than 30 animal units.



## Variances

A variance is any modification or variation of official controls as defined in M.S. § 394.27, subd. 7, where it is determined that by reason of exceptional circumstances, the strict enforcement of the official controls would cause a practical difficulty. Any person seeking a variance to a setback requirement or another section in the Feedlot Management Ordinance shall complete a Variance Application Form and submit it to the Environmental Services Department.

A complete Variance Application Form requires; identifying the practical difficulty present, an application fee of \$500.00, a Township Presentation and Recommendation Form, and all other information required by the Department.

Environmental Services prepares a staff report and refers the application to the County Board of Adjustment for consideration. The Board holds a public hearing on the request and makes its decision by the adoption of an order either approving or denying the variance.

### Transition Areas of Carver County

- Transition Areas will likely be urbanized within the next 20 years. These areas will be managed to ensure that they are available for urban development when needed and that development can occur in an economic and orderly fashion.
- No new feedlot shall be constructed within any of the Transition Areas identified by the County Comprehensive Land Use Plan without approval of the city.
- New feedlots of 30 animal units or more are prohibited within Transition Areas and expanded feedlots operations may be severely restricted.
- Township Comprehensive Plan Chapters may address policies regarding maximum animal unit density/numbers and thresholds that would trigger a Conditional Use Permit.



### 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.*