Alternative EAW Form for Animal Feedlots

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET

Note to preparers: This form is authorized for use only for the preparation of Environmental Assessment Worksheets (EAWs) for animal feedlots. Project proposers should consult the guidance *Guidelines for Alternative EAW Form for Animal Feedlots* (also available at the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) website http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/review.html **or by calling 651-296-6300) regarding how to supply information needed by the Responsible Government Unit (RGU) to complete the worksheet form.**

Note to reviewers: The Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) provides information about a project that may have the potential for significant environmental effects. This EAW was prepared by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), acting as the Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU), to determine whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be prepared. The project proposer supplied reasonably accessible data for, but did not complete the final worksheet. Comments on the EAW must be submitted to the MPCA during the 30-day comment period which begins with notice of the availability of the EAW in the *Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) Monitor*. Comments on the EAW should address the accuracy and completeness of information, potential impacts that are reasonably expected to occur that warrant further investigation, and the need for an EIS. A copy of the EAW may be obtained from the MPCA by calling 651-757-2101. An electronic version of the completed EAW is available at the MPCA website http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html.

1. Basic Project Information.

A. Feedlot Name: _____

B. Feedlot Proposer: _____

Technical Contact Person and Title _____

Address _____

Phone _____
Fax _____
E-mail _____

C. RGU: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Contact Person and Title _____

Address 520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194

Phone 651-757-
Fax 651-297-2343
E-mail _____

D. Reason for EAW Preparation: (check one)

EIS Scoping	Mandatory EAW	Citizen Petition	RGU Discretion	Proposer Volunteered
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

If EAW or EIS is mandatory, give EQB rule category subpart number and name: _____

p-ear1-05

E. Project Location: **County** _____ **City/Twp** _____

_____ **1/4** _____ **1/4** **Section** _____ **Township** _____ **Range** _____

Watershed (name and 4-digit code): _____

F. Attach each of the following to the EAW:

- County map showing the general location of the project
- U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute, 1:24,000 scale map indicating project boundaries (photocopy acceptable)
- Site plan showing all significant project and natural features
- Map of manure application sites
- Map of permanent manure stockpiles
- Map showing all wells, tile inlets, residences, and sensitive receptors within a one-mile radius of the feedlot or on manure land application sites (Please use responses to parts 2 and 3 in making this map.)
- Feedlot Permit Application (county or state)

G. Project summary of 50 words or less to be published in the *EQB Monitor*.

H. Please check all boxes that apply and fill in requested data:

Animal Type	Number Proposed	Type of Confinement
☐ Finishing hogs		
☐ Sows		
☐ Nursery pigs		
☐ Dairy cows		
☐ Beef cattle		
☐ Turkeys		
☐ Layer hens		
☐ Chickens		
☐ Pullets		
☐ Other (Please identify species)		

I. Project magnitude data.

Total acreage of farm: _____
Number of animal units proposed in this project: _____
Total animal unit capacity at this location after project construction: _____
Acreage required for manure application: _____

J. Describe construction methods and timing.

K. Past and future stages.
Is this project an expansion or addition to an existing feedlot? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Are future expansions of this feedlot planned or likely? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If either question is answered yes, briefly describe the existing feedlot (species, number of animals and animal units, and type of operation) and any past environmental review or the anticipated expansion.

2. Land uses and noteworthy resources in proximity to the site.

A. Adjacent land uses. Describe the uses of adjacent lands and give the distances and directions to nearby residences, schools, daycare facilities, senior citizen housing, places of worship, and other places accessible to the public (including roads) within one mile of the feedlot and within or adjacent to the boundaries of the manure application sites.

B. Compatibility with plans and land use regulations. Is the project subject to any of the following adopted plans or ordinances? Check all that apply:

☐ local comprehensive plan
☐ land use plan or ordinance
☐ shoreland zoning ordinance
☐ flood plain ordinance
☐ wild or scenic river land use district ordinance
☐ local wellhead protection plan

Is there anything about the proposed feedlot that is <u>not</u> consistent with any provision of any ordinance or plan checked? ☐Yes ☐No.

If yes, describe the inconsistency and how it will be resolved.

Are there any lands in proximity to the feedlot that are officially planned for or zoned for future uses that might be incompatible with a feedlot (such as residential development)? ☐Yes ☐No

If yes, describe the potentially affected use and its location relative to the feedlot, its anticipated development schedule, and any plans to avoid or minimize potential conflicts with the feedlot.

C. Nearby resources. Are any of the following resources on or in proximity to the feedlot, manure storage areas, or within or adjacent to the boundaries of the manure application sites?

- **Drinking Water Supply Management Areas designated by the Minnesota Department of Health? ☐ Yes ☐ No**
- **Public water supply wells (within two miles)? ☐ Yes ☐ No**
- **Archaeological, historical or architectural resources? ☐ Yes ☐ No**
- **Designated public parks, recreation areas or trails? ☐ Yes ☐ No**

- **Lakes or Wildlife Management Areas? ☐ Yes ☐ No**
- **State-listed (endangered, threatened or special concern) species, rare plant communities or other sensitive ecological resources such as native prairie habitat, colonial waterbird nesting colonies or regionally rare plant communities? ☐ Yes ☐ No**
- **Scenic views and vistas? ☐ Yes ☐ No**
- **Other unique resources? ☐ Yes ☐ No**

If yes, describe the resource and identify any project-related impacts on the resource. Describe any measures to minimize or avoid adverse impacts.

3. Geologic and soil conditions.

A.

Approximate depth (in feet) to:	Feedlot	Manure Storage Area	Manure Application Sites
Ground Water (minimum)			
(average)			
Bedrock (minimum)			
(average)			

B.

NRCS Soil	Feedlot	Manure Storage Area	Manure Application Sites
Classifications (if known)			

C. Indicate with a yes or *no* whether any of the following geologic site hazards to ground water are present at the feedlot, manure storage area, or manure application sites.

	Feedlot	Manure Storage Area	Manure Application Sites
Karst features (sinkhole, cave, resurgent spring, disappearing spring, karst window, blind valley, or dry valley)			
Exposed bedrock			
Soils developed in bedrock (as shown on soils maps)			

For items answered yes (in C), describe the features, show them on a map, and discuss proposed design and mitigation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts.

4. Water Use, Tiling and Drainage, and Physical Alterations.

A. Will the project involve installation or abandonment of any water wells, appropriation of any ground or surface water (including dewatering), or connection to any public water supply?
☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, as applicable, give location and purpose of any new wells; the source, duration, quantity and purpose of any appropriations or public supply connections; and unique well numbers and the

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) appropriation permit numbers, if available. Identify any existing and new wells on the site map. If there are no wells known on-site, explain methodology used to determine that none are present.

B. Will the project involve installation of drain tiling, tile inlets or outlets? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, describe.

C. Will the project involve the physical or hydrologic alteration — dredging, filling, stream diversion, outfall structure, diking, and impoundment — of any surface waters such as a lake, pond, wetland, stream or drainage ditch? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, identify water resource affected and give the DNR Protected Waters Inventory number(s) if the water resources affected are on the PWI. Describe proposed mitigation measures to avoid or minimize impacts.

5. Manure management.

A. Check the box or boxes below which best describe the manure management system proposed for this feedlot.

- ☐ **Stockpiling for land application**
- ☐ **Containment storage under barns for land application**
- ☐ **Containment storage outside of barns for land application**
- ☐ **Dry litter pack on barn floors for eventual land application**
- ☐ **Composting system**
- ☐ **Treatment of manure to remove solids and/or to recover energy**
- ☐ **Other (please describe)**

B. Manure collection, handling, and storage.

Quantities of manure generated: total _____ by species 1 _____ by species 2 _____

Frequency and duration of manure removal: number of days per cycle _____
Total days per year _____

Give a brief description of how manures will be collected, handled (including methods of removal), and stored at this feedlot:

C. Manure utilization.

Physical state of manure to be applied: ☐ liquid ☐ solid ☐ other - describe:

D. Manure application.

1. Describe application technology, technique, frequency, time of year and locations.

2. Describe the agronomic rates of application (per acre) to be used and whether the rates are based on nitrogen or phosphorus. Will there be a nutrient management plan?
☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Discuss the capacity of the sites to handle the volume and composition of manure. Identify any improvements necessary.

4. Describe any required setbacks for land application systems.

E. Other methods of manure utilization. If the project will utilize manure other than by land application, please describe the methods.

6. Air/odor emissions.

A. Identify the major sources of air or odor emissions from this feedlot.

B. Describe any proposed feedlot design features or air or odor emission mitigation measures to be implemented to avoid or minimize potential adverse impacts and discuss their anticipated effectiveness.

C. *Answer this item only if no feedlot design features or mitigations were proposed in item 6.B.* Provide a summary of the results of an air emissions modeling study designed to compare predicted emissions at the property boundaries with state standards, health risk values, or odor threshold concentrations. The modeling must incorporate an appropriate background concentration for hydrogen sulfide to account for potential cumulative air quality impacts.

D. Describe any plans to notify neighbors of operational events (such as manure storage agitation and pumpout) that may result in higher-than-usual levels of air or odor emissions.

E. Noise and dust. Describe sources, characteristics, duration, quantities or intensity and any proposed measures to mitigate adverse impacts.

7. Dead Animal Disposal

Describe the quantities of dead animals anticipated, the method for storing and disposing of carcasses, and frequency of disposal.

8. Surface Water Runoff.

Compare the quantity and quality of site runoff before and after the project. Describe permanent controls to manage or treat runoff.

9. Traffic and Public Infrastructure Impacts.

A. Estimate the number of heavy truck trips generated per week and describes their routing over local roads. Describe any road improvements to be made.

B. Will new or expanded utilities, roads, other infrastructure, or public services be required to serve the project? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe.

10. Permits and approvals required. Mark required permits and give status of application:

Unit of government	Type of Application	Status
☐ MPCA	NPDES Permit	
☐ MPCA	Minnesota Feedlot Permit	
☐ MPCA	NPDES Construction Stormwater Permit	
☐ MPCA	Notification/Status Change for Underground Storage Tanks	
☐ County	Minnesota Feedlot Permit	
☐ County/twp/city	Conditional use or other land use permit	
☐ DNR	Water Appropriation	
☐ Other*		

*(List any other approvals required along with the unit of government, type of approval needed, and status of approval process.)

11. Other potential environmental impacts, including cumulative impacts. If the project may cause any adverse environmental impacts not addressed by items 1 to 10, identify and discuss them here, along

with any proposed mitigation. This includes any cumulative impacts caused by the project in combination with other existing, proposed, and reasonably foreseeable future projects that may interact with the project described in this EAW in such a way as to cause cumulative impacts. Examples of cumulative impacts to consider include air quality, stormwater volume or quality, and surface water quality. (C*umulative impacts may be discussed here or under the appropriate item(s) elsewhere on this form.)*

12. Summary of issues. List any impacts and issues identified above that may require further investigation before the project is begun. Discuss any alternatives or mitigative measures that have been or may be considered for these impacts and issues, including those that have been or may be ordered as permit conditions.

RGU CERTIFICATION.

I hereby certify that:

- The information contained in this document is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.
- The EAW describes the complete project; there are no other projects, stages or components other than those described in this document, which are related to the project as "phased actions," pursuant to Minn. R. 4410.0200, subp. 60, 4410.1000, subp. 4, and 4410.4300, subp. 1.
- Copies of this EAW are being sent to the entire EQB distribution list.

Name and Title of Signer: _____

Craig Affeldt, Supervisor, Environmental Review Unit
St. Paul Office
Regional Division

Date: _____

The format for the alternative Environmental Assessment Worksheet form has been approved by the Chair of the Environmental Quality Board pursuant to Minn. R. 4410.1300 for use for animal feedlot projects. For additional information contact: Environmental Quality Board, 520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55155-4194, 651-296-6300, or at their website http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/review.html.