



Minnesota
Pollution
Control
Agency

Feedlot
Program

Air Emissions and Emergency Response Plans

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Minnesota rules require that a permit application for an animal feedlot having 1,000 or more animal units include an Air Emissions Plan and an Emergency Response Plan. This fact sheet discusses plan requirements and some additional considerations for owners who are required to prepare and submit the plans with their permit application.

Air Emissions Plan

There are three basic components of an Air Emissions Plan. The first part must describe methods and practices that will minimize air emissions. The second part requires a description of measures that will be used to mitigate air emissions if the state ambient air quality standard for hydrogen sulfide is exceeded. Part three of the plan requires the owner to describe how he or she will respond to odor complaints.

Air Emissions Plan, Part 1

Examples of methods and practices that can be used to minimize air emissions include:

- Locating the manure storage area upwind and the greatest possible distance from neighbors
- Landscaping and tree plantings to provide an air emissions screen or filter
- Covering solid manure storage areas
- Placing a shield on the agitator during agitation of liquid manure

- Agitating and pumping of liquid manure at times least likely to disturb neighbors

Air Emissions Plan, Part 2

If the hydrogen sulfide standard is exceeded, you should seek an independent third-party air emissions expert to evaluate the facility and submit a mitigation plan to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) within 45 days of the measured exceedance. The mitigation plan must include an implementation schedule and a list of mitigation measures. Guidance on mitigative measures and links to other example air emissions plans are available on the MPCA feedlot program webpage at www.pca.state.mn.us/hot/feedlots.html or by contacting feedlot program staff.

Air Emissions Plan, Part 3

Because odor complaints may be received by feedlot owners in spite of following best management practices, owners must develop a plan to respond to complaints. The plan should include a listing of the following:

- Each potential odor source at the facility including animal holding areas, manure storage areas, silage or feed storage areas, etc.

MPCA Area Offices:

Rochester area:

507/285-7343

Mankato area:

507/389-5977

Marshall area:

507/537-7146

Willmar area:

320/214-3786

Detroit Lakes area:

218/847-1519

Brainerd area:

218/828-2492

Duluth area:

218/723-4660

Metro area:

651/296-6300

Toll-Free Number:

800/657-3864

Feedlot Service Center:

877/333-3508

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194

(651) 296-6300, toll-free (800) 657-3864, TTY (651) 282-5332 or (800) 657-3864

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- An evaluation and identification of the odor sources most likely to generate significant amounts of odor
- Anticipated odor control strategies for addressing each of the significant odor sources

This part of the plan is triggered by an odor complaint and not a measured hydrogen sulfide exceedance. The list of strategies for addressing the complaint may be as simple as not applying manure during time periods when the neighbors would be affected. They should be low cost, easily implemented strategies that can be employed as needed.

Emergency Response Plans

The Emergency Response Plan also consists of three parts including the following:

Emergency Response Plan, Part 1

A description of the procedures that will contain, minimize and manage an unauthorized discharge. For example, the description might be "My facility consists of an outside manure storage basin. At our farm we have a creek a mile to the south that is downslope from the basin and would be the likely receptor in the event of a manure spill. In the event of a spill, we would quickly use the earth moving equipment at our farm to contain the manure and then build dikes to prevent the manure from reaching the creek."

Emergency Response Plan, Part 2

A description of the procedures that will provide notification to the proper authorities. For example: "We would contact the following authorities within 24 hours of a manure spill: the Minnesota Duty Officer at (800) 422-0798 or (651) 649-5451; and the County Feedlot Officer at (CFO Phone Number) and MPCA staff at the nearest subdistrict office."

Emergency Response Plan, Part 3

A description of the procedures that will mitigate any adverse effects of an unauthorized discharge. For example: "We will take any actions within reason for mitigating the effects of the discharge based on recommendations or requests from MPCA. We will

also contact certified land applicators to remove and land apply any manure that discharges from the site."

For More Information

For more information call your area office listed on the first page of this fact sheet and ask for the feedlot officer, or call the Feedlot Service Center toll-free at (877) 333-3508.