

Expanding an existing feedlot

What to know about obtaining a NPDES or SDS permit

Keep the following items in mind if you are expanding your feedlot to an animal holding capacity that meets or exceeds 1,000 animal units (AU) or a federal [large concentrated animal feeding operation \(CAFO\) threshold](#).

Timetable for permits



Getting a NPDES or SDS permit takes time – at least 60 days but longer if...

- [Environmental review](#) is required (expect 4 - 6 months)
- Significant public interest or comments during the public notice period

Talking to neighbors, township, and county early in the process is recommended

- No one wants to be the last to know

Runoff controls



Feed storage areas need to have runoff controls (basin, tank, or infiltration area)

- Even if it is covered by plastic or is a bagged feed

Open lots need to have runoff controls (basin, tank, or infiltration area)

If existing components do not have runoff controls an individual permit will be required

- Permit typically requires installation of runoff controls within 2 - 3 years

Liquid manure storage



At least 9 months of liquid manure storage capacity required (if 1,000+ AU)

- A site-wide calculation – all animals and all storage areas

New liquid storage areas must have the following separation to karst bedrock:

- 1,000 or more AU – 40 ft for earthen liners, 15 ft for concrete liners
- 300 to 1,000 AU – 30 ft for earthen liners, 10 ft for concrete liners

Land application



No winter application of liquid manure

Restricted winter application of solid manure – low field slope and rain/melt potential

- No winter application of solid manure in March (NPDES permit only)

Cover crops required in September (NPDES permit only)

Choose 1 of 4 Nitrogen BMPs for applications October 1 – 14 (NPDES permit only)

Annual report and fees



Report of feedlot activities required every year on March 1

- Number of animals and self-reporting of issues at the feedlot (overflows, spills, etc.)
- Manure production and land application records

Fee to apply for the permit – based upon type of permit

Annual fee each year the feedlot is covered by a NPDES or SDS permit

Feedlot program staff contacts: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/mpca-feedlot-staff-contacts>.

More information on NPDES and SDS permits: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/npdes-and-sds-permits>.