

Policy memo: Referral of enforcement cases from delegated counties to MPCA

DATE : June 21, 2006 (updated June 1, 2021)
TO : MPCA and County Feedlot Staff
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Goal: To provide criteria to promote statewide consistency regarding acceptance of feedlot enforcement referrals from delegated counties to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) where there is a persistent failure by a feedlot owner to correct pollution hazards. Referral of cases from the delegated counties to the MPCA should be done infrequently and only for very serious cases. This memo does not apply to situations where a county feedlot officer (CFO) discovers a blatant violation (e.g., acute discharging, pumping, piping, dumping manure to waters of the state). These situations should be referred to the MPCA immediately.

Situations where referrals may be accepted:

- Conflict of interest between producer and county/CFO;
- Serious environmental harm/potential for harm;
- Pollution problems and/or investigations involving multiple counties; and
- Other cases as determined appropriate by the MPCA.

Requirements for the county before cases are referred:

- County must have issued a Notice of Violation (NOV);
- County must have tried to refer the case to its county attorney if its previous enforcement action was not successful in resolving the case;
- County must send a letter to the MPCA describing what it has done to resolve the case and why it wants to refer the case to the MPCA; and
- County must agree to continue to work with the MPCA as needed to resolve the case.

Requirements for the MPCA:

- Incorporate enforcement requirements by reference into county workplans and delegation agreements.
- Staff meet with supervisor and compliance coordinator to approve acceptance of the referral.
- Continue to conduct enforcement training for CFOs and/or county attorney as needed.
- Maintain a NOV and Letter of Warning to be used by counties.