



Extend ban on new open-air, hog-manure basins

Restricting open-air basins in favor of closed systems benefits public health and the environment.

What's the issue?

A 2002 statute instituted a five-year ban on permitting the construction of new open-air, hog-manure basins. The ban was re-authorized in 2007, and again in 2012. The MPCA proposes extending the ban's expiration date to 2022.

Why is it important?

The Legislature moved to restrict construction of new open-air, swine-manure pits in favor of closed manure systems. Closed systems better contain manure and odors, so offer increased protection of the environment and public health.

Prior to 2002, the MPCA issued permits to more than 130 Minnesota sites with open-air, hog-manure basins. Extending the current ban will allow the agency to continue working with swine producers to change over to closed systems, as their current open-air systems "age-out" and are replaced.



Swine producers looking to install a closed manure system can take advantage of Department of Agriculture grant and loan programs.

The goal

Encouraging farmers to switch to closed manure systems will help control manure odors and better contain manure. Odors are one of the most frequent complaints leveled at large hog operations by their neighbors. And keeping manure securely contained lowers the chance for spills that can contaminate nearby lakes and streams.

For more information

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