



MPCA Feedlot Program Update



Working with agriculture on efficient and effective solutions for environmental stewardship

May 25, 2011

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Report issued on Livestock Environmental Quality Assurance program

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has launched the Livestock Environmental Quality Assurance Program (LEQA) program to help livestock producers take the initiative on a non-regulatory basis to evaluate water quality issues and implement appropriate practices. MDA has contracted with Ag Resource Strategies, LLC, to recruit farmers to enroll in the LEQA program. The company trains technicians to look at the farm in separate resource management areas, such as the farmstead, livestock facilities, fields and wooded areas. The technicians then develop an assessment and an action plan, if necessary. The assessment and plan is confidential unless the farmer decides otherwise. The cost to register for the program is \$225. The farmer then receives an assessment, action plan and up to 20 additional hours of assistance from the LEQA technician. [Report to legislature](#), Dec. 15, 2010. More information is available at www.agresourcestrategies.com or contact Tim Gieseke at 507-359-1889. Citizens League comments: <http://www.citizensleague.org/publications/reports/land/>.

Updated list of NPDES permits issued posted on feedlot Web site

An updated list of recently-issued NPDES permits is located on the Web at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/udgx69b>. Nearly 1,100 general permits have been issued, covering 2011-2016. **According to the state's delegation agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency,** inspections or reviews are conducted at NPDES sites at least once during the five-year period.

Training opportunities

MinnFARM refresher

A refresher for MinnFARM users via WebEx is scheduled for 10 a.m. – noon, Wednesday, June 8, with David Schmidt, engineer, Dept. of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering, U of M. WebEx information will be distributed at a later date. Updated training dates and locations can be found on the Feedlot Program [Training and Events](#) webpage. Also, the SNAP survey regarding the upcoming regional CFO trainings this summer must be completed by Friday, May 27. If you have not done so, please complete the survey at www.snapsurveys.com/swh/surveylogin.asp?k=130513209511.

New tool for assessing air emissions from livestock farms

The National Air Quality Site Assessment Tool (NAQSAT) is an online tool designed to evaluate the opportunities to reduce the air emissions and odors associated with livestock facilities and manure handling, storage and application. It is available for producers, their advisors and management team [online](#). The tool addresses eight management categories related to air emissions: animals and housing, feed and water, collection and transfer of manure, manure storage, land application, mortalities, on-farm roads and public perception. [More](#).

Livestock & Poultry Environmental Learning Center News - May

<http://www.extension.org/animal+manure+management>

June Webcast: Improving Implementation of Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs)

This webcast will cover three topics (1) U.S. EPA nutrient management plan permit terms, (2) perspectives on how better implement a NMP from an Extension educator, professional nutrient management planner, and farmer, and (3) improved record keeping. Presenters are: Caitlin Conover, US EPA, Kevin Erb, University of Wisconsin, Rachel Mueller, Cornerstone Crop Consulting, Melony Wilson, University of Georgia and Shawn Hawkins, University of Tennessee. [More...](#)

Environmental Leader. The beginning farmer team in the LPE Learning Center recently recognized Peter Juergens, an Iowa swine producer as **the first "Environmental Leader" award winner** [More...](#) The applications are now open for the 2012 environmental leader class [More...](#) **The "Environmental Leaders" award program seeks to recognize young or beginning producers who have a proactive stewardship ethic.**

Value of Manure. With the rising cost of commercial fertilizer, more and more farmers are looking to **use manure and other organic nutrient sources in their cropping systems.** The **"manure value and economics" team has developed a section on the business side of manure management** [More...](#)

Research Summary. A newly published research summary examines the timing of manure application in relation to the availability of nitrogen. [More...](#) (North Dakota State University)

Calibration Page Updated. The web page on calibrating solid manure application equipment has been updated and now includes a video produced by the University of Wisconsin [More...](#)

County Profile: Becker – Jeff Norby

Looking at a highway map of Minnesota, you see a crescent of blue shapes curving across the center, toward the southeast. They represent the chain of lakes sprinkled over the vast moraine left by the last glacier. It begins around Detroit Lakes, Becker County, in northwestern Minnesota and stretches almost to the Twin City metro area. **The county's population temporarily swells each August as thousands attend the popular WE Fest just outside Detroit Lakes.** In the livestock world, **small dairy and beef farms comprise the majority of the county's 247 registered feedlots.** A large dairy, three turkey and one swine farm are large enough to have federal NPDES permits. Although not a delegated county, **Becker NRCS and SWCD offices have done a fair amount of work with livestock facilities over the years.** **"Becker County has done more feedlot work than a lot of counties. They were really pretty good,"** says Mark Steuart, who recently retired from the MPCA working in the feedlot program at the Detroit Lakes office. Although the days of putting in 20 to 30 manure pits a year are gone, the NRCS/SWCD continues to provide cost share and technical assistance for livestock related practices through the



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), according to Jeff Norby, NRCS soil conservation technician. Practices include waste storage facilities, livestock exclusions, closure of waste impoundments, and planning for waste management (manure) and rotational grazing. On average, three rotational grazing plans get funded each year along with a waste storage facility (lagoon). The recently rolled out Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) also addresses livestock related issues. The local field office uses the local work group process to prioritize and fund projects in Becker County, and livestock-related issues are one of the priorities addressed by the work group.

Delegated county news

- > Morrison County P&Z administrator Mark Anderson is filling in on feedlot program duties for Megan Molitor, who has taken a job with the Stearns County SWCD. Mark says they hope to fill the vacancy by July.
- > MACFO convention: Oct. 18-20, River Port Inn, Winona. Sens. Dan Sparks and Jeremy Miller. Panel: livestock and environment.

Feedlot Update moving to new distribution service

Please note that the MPCA has switched to a new service, called GovDelivery, to deliver the Feedlot Update. To ensure delivery of these messages, please add mpca@public.govdelivery.com to your address book or safe sender list. The **May** edition of the Feedlot Update is now posted at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/yhiz69e>. It is also attached as a PDF for your convenience. If you have any questions about the Feedlot Update or GovDelivery, please call or email me. You can now sign up for a variety of newsletters and information alerts on environmental topics. For details, go to: https://admin.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNPCA/subscriber/topics?qsp=MNPCA_1. You will need to enter your email address before seeing the subscriber list, but you will receive updates and **notifications only on topics you select. Also, you can hit the "cancel" button** and your email address will *not* be placed on any subscription list. In addition, you may manage your subscription to Watershed Network News via this web page.

In The News

[Rock-Nobles Cattlemen will host summer beef tour](#)

Agri-News, 5/18/11

[MPCA Enforcement Actions Total More Than \\$420,000 in First Quarter of 2011](#)

MPCA news release, 5/12/11

[Experience a Virtual 'Day on the Farm'](#)

The Farmer, 5/17/11

[Mentors helped Malecek in building beef operation](#)

Agri-News, 5/5/11

Calendar

June 8-9: **Farm Progress Hay Expo**, Henke's Farm, Inc., Goodhue County. [News article](#).

June 15-16: Bus tour, Minnesota Milk Producers Association. [Brochure](#).

July 20: Minnesota State Cattlemen Summer Tour, Worthington.

July 20: North American Manure Expo, Norfolk, NE [More...](#)

Aug. 2-4: FarmFest, Gilfillan-Redwood Falls. [More...](#)

Oct. 18-20: MACFO convention, River Port, Winona.

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Please forward to anyone who might be interested in this information. If you know of anyone who would like to be on this distribution list, please send us their e-mail address. If you have any questions, or would like to suggest a newsletter topic, please contact Forrest Peterson, MPCA Willmar office, 320-441-6972, forrest.peterson@state.mn.us. Thanks.



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Working with agriculture on efficient and effective solutions for environmental stewardship

April 27, 2011

In This Issue

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- Vermilyea testifies for reducing proposed cut to county program funding
- Composting handling carcasses from hog barn fire
- Nutrient management trainings May 5, 10
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- State veterinarian urges producers to vaccinate against anthrax
- Board of Animal Health appoints Compart, Brake
- Livestock & Poultry Environmental Learning Center News
- County Profile: Douglas – Andy Siira
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Performance credits awards being distributed for 2010

Delegated county performance credit payments for 2010 will be awarded soon to eligible counties. A total of \$224,535 is being distributed. Counties earn performance credits with activities such as inspections (site, land application, or construction), achieving site improvements, hosting producer workshops, and attending training. Nearly 3,000 inspections and 278 environmental upgrades were reported by delegated counties in 2010.

Vermilyea testifies for reducing proposed cut to county program funding

Steele County CFO and MACFO President Dan Vermilyea testified before the Senate Environment Committee March 22, asking to scale back the amount of a proposed funding cut to the county feedlot program. The omnibus environment bill called for a 15 percent cut, which would allocate \$1,665,000 per year for the next biennium. **Following Dan's testimony, the Senate committee voted to reduce the cut from 15 percent to 7 percent, or an allocation of \$1,810,000 per year for the Senate version of the bill.** In the current biennium, the amount is about \$1.9 million. The bill (HF 1010) is currently in conference committee.

Composting handling carcasses from hog barn fire

Composting is being used to process about 300 sow carcasses as the result of a fire April 4 that destroyed five barns near Goodhue, about 12 miles southwest of Red Wing. County, PCA, and BAH staff met at the site to concur on disposal. A concrete slab next to the **farm's current composting site** was large enough to handle the quantity. Compost material was hauled in, and the clean-up went well, according MPCA Rochester office staff. Manure solids and carcasses will be disposed of on-site after it is composted. Building debris was hauled away for recycling and or to the landfill. The farm is registered for 840 animal units, and plans are to rebuild.

Training opportunities

Nutrient management trainings May 5, 10

Nutrient management training for CFOs and MPCA feedlot staff is scheduled at two locations in May: Thursday, May 5, 2011, 9:30 – 3:30 Blue Earth County Government Center, Mankato; and Tuesday, May 10, 2011, 9:30 – 3:30 Douglas County Public Works Building, Alexandria. The course targets staff who have a basic understanding of manure management planning but are looking for some additional information on the underlying research, environmental concerns, and economics that support the UM manure management recommendations and MPCA manure application requirements. This six-hour course will be taught by University Extension Specialist, Jose Hernandez, PhD. To register for the course contact Courtney Ahlers, courtney.ahlers@state.mn.us.

MinnFARM refresher

A refresher for MinnFARM users via WebEx is scheduled for 10 a.m. – noon, Wednesday, June 8, with David Schmidt, engineer, Dept. of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering, U of M. WebEx information will be distributed at a later date. Updated training dates and locations can be found on the Feedlot Program [Training and Events](#) webpage. Also, watch your e-mails for a SNAP survey regarding the upcoming regional CFO trainings this summer.

NPDES annual reports due in 2012 need non-transferred manure records

Owners and operators of NPDES-permitted livestock facilities are reminded that all land application records of *non-transferred* manure for the period of *Sept. 1, 2010, to Aug. 31, 2011*, are due to your regional MPCA office on an agency-approved form by March 1, 2012. The form is found at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=3555>. There is also a record keeping form within MPCA's Excel spreadsheet manure management planner for those using the planner. So far, nearly 90% (1,042) of the approximate 1,160 component-complete applications have been issued NPDES general permits for 2011-2016.

State veterinarian urges producers to vaccinate against anthrax

Producers in northwestern Minnesota are urged to vaccinate their cattle soon against naturally-occurring anthrax. Anthrax is a naturally occurring disease caused by the bacteria *Bacillus anthracis*. The bacteria can lie dormant for years in the soil. However, heavy rains and flooding can bring the spores to the surface, where they may be ingested by grazing animals. Livestock infected with anthrax die quickly, often exhibiting no symptoms until just before death. If you suspect anthrax contact your veterinarian immediately. The risk of humans developing anthrax from naturally occurring bacteria is extremely low. Minnesota has recorded no human cases of anthrax since 1953. For more information visit the Board of Animal Health website at www.bah.state.mn.us. – BAH news release

Board of Animal Health appoints Compart, Brake

Dean Compart of Nicollet was appointed to the Minnesota Board of Animal Health on March 14. Dean **and his family own Compart's Boar Store, Inc., a family owned and operated swine breeding stock** business in Nicollet. The company has more than 1,200 sows producing crossbred gilts and specializing in the production of pureline Duroc, Yorkshire, and Landrace boars and gilts. The company recently implemented a branded pork program. The Compart Family Farms Premium Duroc Pork Label provides pork to national and international white tablecloth restaurants and up-scale grocery stores. Steve Brake of Wilmont was reappointed to the Board on March 21. Brake is a cattle and swine producer from southwestern Minnesota. He has been farming since 1979 and currently **farms 1,500 acres in Nobles County. He is the past president of the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association and served on the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Board of Directors.**

Livestock & Poultry Environmental Learning Center News - February 2011

<http://www.extension.org/animal+manure+management>

On the May 20 webcast, John Gay, Joe Harrison, and Liz Whitefield with Washington State University and Allison Costa with the US EPA AgSTAR program will update the latest research in anaerobic digestion. [More...](#) Stocking Rate. What if you could rehearse the upcoming grazing season before turning a single animal out to pasture? Now you can! USDA ARS has developed a model that will allow producers to calculate an appropriate stocking rate for their land based on weather predictions for the upcoming growing season. [More...](#) Download the model at <http://www.tinyurl.com/farmrange>



Buffers & Antibiotics. Field tests by University of Missouri scientists have backed up laboratory research indicating that buffer strips of grass and other plants can reduce the amount of herbicide and veterinary antibiotics in surface runoff from farm plots. [More...](#)

Manure Management in No-Till & Forages. A series of articles is being published in the *Journal of Environmental Quality* that will discuss subsurface application of manure. Surface application of manures leaves nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) susceptible to being lost in runoff, and N can also be lost to the atmosphere through ammonia (NH₃) volatilization. Tillage renders nutrients less vulnerable to runoff and volatilization loss. Tillage, however, destroys soil structure, can lead to soil erosion, and is incompatible with forage and no-till systems. [More...](#) See the related LPELC webinar "[Manure Application in No-Till](#)"

Manure Solids. The ratio of nitrogen to phosphorus in manure is low in relation to the nutrient needs of most crops. Therefore, crops tend to be overloaded with manure to meet the nitrogen requirement of agricultural crops, but the excess phosphorus from the process can damage the environment. In a new study, scientists tested the effectiveness of removing solids from dairy manure to improve yield by increasing the nitrogen to phosphorus ratio and reducing the loss of nitrogen by hastening soil infiltration. [More...](#)

County Profile: Douglas – Andy Siira

Alexandria and Douglas County may have more fame statewide because of the many lakes, the [runestone](#), and [Big Ole](#). But its 500 registered feedlots, many of which are small dairies, give CFO Andy Siira plenty of work. Not to mention, farming and raising beef cattle south of Brandon. Andy joined the Douglas County Land and Resource Management department just over a year ago, working primarily with the feedlot program. Before starting with Douglas County he had been farming with his father at their grass-based dairy operation. Three years ago they transitioned into the beef operation. "The past year has been an exciting, yet challenging year full of new experiences and great opportunities," **Andy says**. "I went through a big learning curve, but feel I have started to get my feet under me in running an effective feedlot program here in Douglas County. We have a little of everything when it comes to livestock, but the majority are dairy farms. We have a lot of lakes, which results in a large number of sites within shoreland areas. So far this spring I have been busy lining up projects with several producers, and I hope to see that continue. There are also a couple projects that were started last fall that I hope to see completed yet **this spring**." **Andy and** Barry Bouwman of Pope County are planning on putting on a feedlot meeting for producers this fall. Andy is also on the Minnesota Association of County Feedlot Officers (MACFO) board and has enjoyed following and getting involved with legislative issues. Douglas County Animal Agriculture Web page: [http://www.co.douglas.mn.us/LRM Animal Agriculture Home.htm](http://www.co.douglas.mn.us/LRM_Animal_Agriculture_Home.htm)



Andy Siira

Delegated county news

- In Dodge County, Ken Folie retired March 31. In 1998, Ken began working part-time in the planning and zoning office, taking on feedlot duties in 2001. For the time being, Zoning Administrator Melissa DeVetter will be handling feedlot program work. Feedlot program mail should be addressed to Melissa at 22 6th St. E., Dept 123, Mantorville, MN 55955, instead of the SWCD office at Dodge Center.
- Andy Geiger has been hired in Cottonwood County. He replaces Mike Hanson. Andy **worked for the Jackson County Highway Dept. and also at the St. James Wastewater Treatment Facility. He attended college at Iowa Lakes Community College for environmental studies. He grew up in Ormsby and worked in his dad's repair shop. He now lives on a farm with wife, Bridgett, and 3-year-old daughter, Avery. He helps with his father-in-law's farming operation and enjoys hunting and fishing in his spare time. Contact info: andy.geiger@co.cottonwood.mn.us, 507-831-2060.**
- In Stearns County, Don Adams, director of the Environmental Services Dept. and CFO, reportedly is retiring May 6. Interim director will be Angie Berg, who has been director of the Land Use Division for 10 years.
- Jon Bloemendaal jbloemendaal@co.murray.mn.us, Murray County, has a new phone number: 507-836-1164.

Feedlot Update moving to new distribution service

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In The News

[Hay Expo to draw 3,000 to Cannon Falls in June](#)

Cannon Falls Beacon, 4/22/11

[Comment Period for water pollution reports on Cottonwood, Redwood Rivers runs through May 25](#)

MPCA news release, 4/21/11

[Minnesota to Apply for Statewide TB-Free Status](#)

MDH news release, 4/8/11

Calendar

June 8-9: **Farm Progress Hay Expo, Henke's Farm, Inc., Goodhue County.** [News article.](#)

July 20: Minnesota State Cattlemen Summer Tour, Worthington.

July 20: North American Manure Expo, Norfolk, NE [More...](#)

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March 23, 2011

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- Ag Department spreading word about flood preparation
- Reduce chances of floodwaters affecting manure-storage facilities
- Inspection form training for CFOs on WebEx
- Majority of NPDES annual reports are in
- Livestock & Poultry Environmental Learning Center News
- Extension webcast: 'How nature manages manure'
- County Profile: Scott Williams – Chippewa
- Delegated county news
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Tour shows research on wintering systems for 'alternative' livestock production

A small group of farmers learned more about wintering systems for "alternative" swine and dairy production at a [tour March 18](#) at the West Central Research and Outreach Center near Morris. What's called alternative today may not be much different than the conventional ways of earlier generations. Swine can thrive in well-managed hoop barns. An organic dairy herd finds warmth outdoors atop a large mound of straw compost. Bedding and manure from the hoop barns is composted and land-applied. The tour was sponsored by the "[Profits from Perennials](#)" project of the Land Stewardship Project and Chippewa River Watershed Project. The purpose is to find profitable ways to raise crops and livestock using methods that will sustain land and water resources.



Straw bedding generates warmth for organic dairy herd wintering outside.

Ag Department spreading word about flood preparation

While many farmers and ag-related businesses are well aware of what they need to do to minimize their losses from flooding, we are distributing some basic information around the state to make sure that any farmer or business manager looking for guidance or resources knows where to go. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is working closely with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and others to coordinate our activities and response.

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/en/protecting/floodinfo.aspx>

Reduce chances of floodwaters affecting manure-storage facilities

To reduce the likelihood of an overflow, feedlot operators are encouraged to divert water from manure-storage facilities if possible. Manure stockpiles located in areas that could flood should be removed immediately. Farmers must contact the Minnesota Duty Officer immediately at 651-649-5451 or 800-422-0798 if their manure-storage facilities overflow, if manure enters surface waters, or if their manure storage structure is inundated by floodwaters. Farmers can also contact the feedlot inspector in the nearest [MPCA regional office](#) if their manure-storage facilities are in danger of overflowing. Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District office or Minnesota Extension Service for more information on allowable application rates and suggestions for the best fields to apply manure to reduce the risk of pollution from floods. MPCA flood website: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/hqzq7fe>

Flood forecast:

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ncrfc/content/water/esp/espminor.php?espLevel=minor&fg=>

Inspection form training for CFOs on WebEx

County feedlot staff can choose to attend one of the three upcoming training sessions on the new non-NPDES feedlot inspection checklist and the inspection page in DELTA, the **MPCA's database** system. The sessions via [WebEx](#) are scheduled March 23, 24, and 30. The new non-NPDES inspection checklist will replace an earlier version in the [CFO Toolbox](#). WebEx is interactive, allowing questions and discussion. Please watch your e-mail for details on how to connect to the WebEx Trainings. This will replace the regional CFO trainings at the various locations around the state as has been done previously. **Access for CFOs to the MPCA's database for feedlot records and the use of current** communications technology are examples of continuing efforts to improve the operation and effectiveness of the feedlot program at little or no cost.

Majority of NPDES annual reports are in

As of March 15, NPDES annual reports have been received from 948 out of 1,181 livestock operations with NPDES permits. The four-page form basically asks for any updates on livestock numbers and manure management activities. The form can be printed from the MPCA feedlot Web page containing permit information and forms, located at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/pyri69d>.

Livestock & Poultry Environmental Learning Center News - February 2011

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Looking Forward to the April Webcast: Reducing Odor Risk

While national and regional air quality concerns surrounding animal agriculture have received increased attention in recent years, for many rural communities, local issues like odor continue to be of greatest concern. When improvements in the economic outlook for livestock and poultry production arrive, producers may be more likely to consider improving or expanding facilities. This webcast will highlight two planning tools - OFFSET and NOFT - currently being used in western Cornbelt states to encourage well-planned siting of facilities and voluntary adoption of odor control technology. [More...](#)



The sixth annual EPA Ag Star conference will be May 10-12 in Boise, ID. There will be optional farm tours (anaerobic digesters) on the 10th with the presentations starting on the 11th. [More...](#)

North American Manure Expo. July 20, 2011 in Norfolk, NE [More...](#)

Extension **webcast: 'How nature manages manure'**

Ray Archuleta, Conservation Agronomist with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service will present a discussion on the science of soil. The national webcast will be moderated by Bill Boyd, National Manure Management Team Leader with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. The presentation will be on March 25, 2011 at 1:30 pm (central). [View the flyer](#)

County Profile: Chippewa – Scott Williams

In southwestern Minnesota, Montevideo in Chippewa County has the distinction of showing up as a red dot on the [web page](#) map of major flood forecasts this spring. On March 4, Gov. Dayton and various state officials spoke to more than 200 local officials and public safety personnel attending a flood preparation “pep rally” in Montevideo. The Governor outlined state resources, and committed his strong support of local efforts to combat flooding. Scott Williams, director of the Chippewa County [Land and Resource Management Department](#), has been through it all in the past, with the county since 1999, and before that, with the Granite Falls Economic Development



Governor Dayton talks with local officials at a flood preparedness meeting March 4 in Montevideo.

Authority. In recent history, major flooding occurred in 1997 and 2001. Since then, the cities and the county have worked to remove and relocate structures out of the flood plains. According to MPCA data, there are 101 registered feedlots in Chippewa County, including 11 NPDES-permitted operations (9 swine). The comparatively low number may one reason be why the county has not become delegated to administer the feedlot program. However, the Land and Resource office requires a CUP for feedlot projects over 300 animal units. And those needing technical assistance or cost-share are served by the county SWCD, “so we’re still helping out,” Scott says. State officials with Gov. Dayton March 4 included Kris Eide, Public Safety commissioner; Maj. Gen. Rick Nash; Mike Rothman, Commerce commissioner; Dave Frederickson, DNR southern region manager, and several legislators. Dan Luna of the National Weather Service said there is a 30 percent chance that flood levels could exceed those in 2001.

Delegated county news

Stevens County recently completed a construction short form permit for an expansion to the Moore Lean Pork swine nursery operation in Moore Township. It will be adding 1,900 head to the existing 8,000 head facility. CFO Bill Kleindl says the last permitting in the county occurred in 2007. Delegated counties are reminded to update the Delta registration screens when such changes are made to facilities.

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In The News

[Comment period begins for EAW on Clay County layer hen facility expansion](#)

MPCA news release, 3/21/11

[Feedlot given 'smell' test](#)

Faribault County Register, 3/7/11

[Monoslope building eliminates manure runoff for Sonderman](#)

CattleNetwork, 3/7/11

[Stearns environmental director to retire](#)

St. Cloud Times, 3/2/11

[What Rural Residents and Feedlot Operators Can Do to Avoid Pollution Problems in a Flood](#)

MPCA news release, 2/22/11

[MPCA Seeks Comments on Environmental Review of Forsman Farms Expansion](#)

MPCA news release, 2/22/11

Calendar

April 6: Policy luncheon, Minnesota Agri-Growth Council, 11:30 a.m., Kelly Inn, St. Paul.

April 13: [Minnesota Women's Agricultural Leadership Conference](#), Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

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- Delegated county news
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- Calendar

County staff spring training via WebEx

In an effort to reduce staff time, drive time, and resources, the MPCA will be holding the upcoming training for county feedlot staff at the end of March by [WebEx](#). This will replace the regional CFO trainings at the various locations around the state as has been done previously. Instead, CFOs will be **expected to “tune in”** via a web browser and telephone to hear about the two main topics: The non-NPDES inspection checklist and the inspection page in DELTA. WebEx is interactive, allowing questions and discussion. The U of M, as part of its education contract with the Feedlot Program, will be holding two trainings statewide on the land application of manure tentatively scheduled for May and a WebEx for a MinnFARM Q and A in June. As always, watch your e-mail and the Training and Events website for more details as they develop. – *Courtney Ahlers, MPCA-St. Paul.*

Timing, rate of manure application among nutrient conference topics

Several county and agency feedlot staff attended the fifth annual [Nutrient Efficiency and Management Conference](#) Feb. 15 in Rochester. The purpose of the conference is to present information and research on the latest techniques for managing manure and commercial fertilizer to improve yields while minimizing costs and environmental impact. The program featured results from research at [Wisconsin Discovery Farms](#) on field scale studies and manure application timing and rates. “Our data show that manure applications made shortly preceding a runoff event can contribute a significant amount of nutrient and sediment losses,” **states an abstract of the presentation by Amber Radatz.** “The risk for runoff is highest when: snow begins to melt either due to warm temperatures or rain on snow, rain falls on frozen or snow covered ground, and rain or liquid manure is applied to saturated or nearly saturated soils. Careful manure management and informed decision making can help to reduce those losses.”

Take care with manure application in winter

A 20-minute presentation [Webcast](#) by Dr. Jeffrey Lorimor, ISU (ret.), summarizes research on winter manure application: 1) The later in the winter you apply manure, the more risk of loss of the manure to

surface waters; 2) Solid manure has risk, but is less risky than liquid manure; 3) **Don't apply to deep snow**, more risk associated with deeper snow. The MPCA has also issued a news release (see In the News section below) about the challenges of manure management during snowmelt. It includes advice from the [University of Wisconsin-Extension](#). See also the MPCA [fact sheet](#), "Managing manure and land application during adverse weather conditions."

Many NPDES annual reports arriving ahead of March 1 deadline

With less than one week to go before the March 1 deadline, NPDES annual reports are accumulating at MPCA regional offices. The four-page form basically asks for any updates on livestock numbers and manure management activities. The form can be printed from the MPCA feedlot Web page containing permit information and forms, located at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/pyri69d>.

Livestock & Poultry Environmental Learning Center News - February 2011

<http://www.extension.org/animal+manure+management>

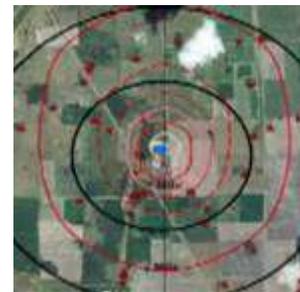
March 25 Webcast: 1:30 p.m. "How Nature, the Supreme Farmer, Manages Manure", Ray Archuleta, Conservation Agronomist and moderated by Bill Boyd, Manure Management Team Leader, both with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. [More...](#)

Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center [newsletter](#).

Odor and Ammonia Videos: Two new videos have been added to the LPELC YouTube channel. The newest production is "[Odor from Livestock Farms" A Case Study from Nebraska](#)" and examines how research

information is being put to use on farms. The second video has been on our website for a while, but thanks to more generous length limits on YouTube, we have been able to upload it to our channel.

This video is about the role of animal agriculture in "[Ammonia Deposition in Rocky Mountain National Park](#)". See more on the [LPELC YouTube channel](#).



County Profile: Otter Tail – Darren Newville

Under more favorable financial conditions, Otter Tail County likely would be joining the ranks of the 55 counties delegated to administer state feedlot rules for non-NPDES livestock farms.

Recently, the county's Agriculture Advisory Committee approved a resolution in favor of delegation, according to Cynthia Johnson, a Fergus Falls area farmer and committee member.

The county board supports the proposal, but with current budget constraints is unable to take action, Johnson says. While the county delegation effort is on hold, the Agriculture Advisory Committee is now working on a county-wide land use plan, according to Johnson. She is also a board member of the [Center for Rural Policy and Development](#) at Minnesota State-Mankato, which is providing assistance for the effort. Being a large and diverse county, Otter Tail has two SWCD offices, east and west. Both offices support delegation, and if it happens, likely would handle the duties, says Darren Newville, of the East Otter Tail SWCD.

According to MPCA records, there are many smaller dairies and beef farms among the 656 registered feedlots in Otter Tail. Many lakes occupy the middle half of the county. Many of the feedlots are in the



eastern part. The Otter Tail River emerges from the western part through prime crop land into the Red River Valley. In recent years, the SWCD has worked on a number of livestock projects, from relocating feedlots away from waters, to installing manure storage basins. "We have put a strong emphasis on managed grazing in the East Otter Tail Field office in Perham through the NRCS EQIP program and have worked with about 15 to 20 operations," **Darren says**. "In the past two years there have been plans completed for 2,680 acres of rotational or managed grazing for a wide variety of animal types including beef cattle, dairy cows, sheep, goats, and bison. These plans include things like perimeter fence, and watering facilities including pipelines if needed. They also incorporate proper management of sensitive areas such as wetlands and riparian areas. Managed grazing systems not only improve livestock production but also result in a variety of environmental benefits," Darren says. East Otter Tail SWCD: <http://www.eotswcd.org/>

Delegated county news

Southeast CFOs host producer meetings

More than 100 producers attended information meetings Feb. 1 and 2, hosted by County Feedlot Officers from Dodge, Freeborn, Goodhue, Mower, Rice, and Steele counties. The meetings, held in Austin, Blooming Prairie and Zumbrota, included presentations about Discovery Farms, Livestock Environmental Quality Assurance, manure application and record-keeping, and two panel discussions on open lots and pit foaming. A survey asked producers, "What level of interaction would you prefer to have in the feedlot program, state-MPCA, CFO-local government, or none. Responses were: 72%-CFO, 17%-a combination of CFO/MPCA, 5.5%-MPCA, and 5.5%-none. "We are surprised by the results and wonder if producers have accepted regulatory involvement," **says Dan Vermilyea, Steele County CFO**. The southeast CFOs are currently preparing for two Certified Animal Waste Technician trainings to be held in Rochester and Owatonna in March.

Lori Brinkman, assistant feedlot administrator for Carver County, recently wrote a column for the **Howard Lake Herald Journal on manure management**. "...paperwork aside, manure and nutrient management is a good thing. Manure adds nutrients and organic matter to the soil and can significantly increase crop yields. Injecting or tilling manure into the soil can reduce nitrogen loss, thus reducing fertilizer costs. These are practices that many farmers know and regularly implement. However, manure management goes one step further. Consider manure a plant. Some plants are highly valued as a landscape flower, but out of place can be detrimental, and proper management is required to avoid negative economic effects. Excess manure nutrients and fecal bacteria in water also have negative effects, and proper management is required." **Read the entire article [Here](#)**.

Feedlot Update moving to new distribution service

Please note that the MPCA has switched to a new service, called GovDelivery, to deliver the Feedlot Update. To ensure delivery of these messages, please add mpca@public.govdelivery.com to your address book or safe sender list. The February edition of the Feedlot Update is now posted at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/yhiz69e>. It is also attached as a PDF for your convenience. If you have any questions about the Feedlot Update or GovDelivery, please call or email me. You can now sign up for a variety of newsletters and information alerts on environmental topics. For details, go to: https://admin.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNPCA/subscriber/topics?qsp=MNPCA_1. You will need to enter your email address before seeing the subscriber list, but you will receive updates and notifications **only on topics you select**. Also, you can hit the "cancel" button and your email address will *not* be placed on any subscription list. In addition, you may manage your subscription to Watershed Network News via this web page.

In The News

[Rapid snow melt poses challenges for feedlot manure management](#)

MPCA news release, 2/17/11

[Feedlot violations cost Tulenchik \\$20,000](#)

MPCA news release, 2/17/11

[Large feedlots receive new, 5-year permit: annual reports due March 1](#)

MPCA news release, 2/7/11

[MPCA enforcement actions top \\$355,000 in fourth quarter of 2010](#)

MPCA news release, 2/7/11

Calendar

March 3: Carcass disposal workshop, 10:30-noon, Brown County building, 300 2nd Ave SW, Sleepy Eye.

March 15-17, 2011: [Midwest Poultry Federation](#) convention, St. Paul RiverCentre.

March 18: 1-3:30 p.m., Tour: Wintering systems for swine and grass-fed dairy, West Central Research and Outreach Center, Morris.

The purpose of this electronic newsletter is to provide another communication tool for the MPCA and county feedlot officers. It will attempt to provide accurate, objective, concise, and timely information about the feedlot program, but not necessarily reflect official agency policy.

Please forward to anyone who might be interested in this information. If you know of anyone who would like to be on this distribution list, please send us their e-mail address. If you have any questions, or would like to suggest a newsletter topic, please contact Forrest Peterson, MPCA Willmar office, 320-441-6972, forrest.peterson@state.mn.us. Thanks.



MPCA Feedlot Program Update



Working with agriculture on efficient and effective solutions for environmental stewardship

Jan. 19, 2011

In This Issue

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NPDES News, 2011 calendar available on Web

The January 2011 edition of "NPDES News" and the 2011 feedlot inspection wall calendar are now available on the MPCA feedlot [web page](#). The main article of NPDES News is a Q and A on manure management in winter requirements for large livestock operations with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. Generally, land application of liquid manure is allowed if normal injection or tillage is possible. Specific requirements exist for emergency applications of liquid manure. A low phosphorus index score is necessary for surface application of solid manure. The calendar can be used for keeping records of regular inspections required in NPDES permits.



Delegated counties preparing for access to MPCA feedlot data

After a series of successful training sessions in December and early January, feedlot staff in delegated **counties are preparing to access the MPCA's database for record-keeping and data management** for feedlot permits, registration, inspections, and other related activities. The change from **BWSR's eLINK** system used for counties to the MPCA system will take place Feb. 1-4. Delegated county direct access to the MPCA feedlot data is expected to improve efficiency and accuracy of managing feedlot program data. Further improvements are expected in March, followed by more training. County feedlot staff are reminded to contact their MPCA regional feedlot staff person for assistance during the transition if necessary.

County feedlot program annual reviews under way

County feedlot program annual reviews in delegated counties are being conducted through February. MPCA and county feedlot staff meet to review performance and work plans. The review consists of a

2010 performance evaluation and 2011 work plan approval. An evaluation form is used to assess the required 7 percent inspection rate and 85 percent completion of non-inspection minimum program requirements. The existing 2010-11 work plan will be reviewed to see that it is still applicable for 2011. Unique to Minnesota, the program has enrolled 55 counties to administer feedlot rules, with the exception of federal NPDES permits. County staff provide livestock producers with local service in construction permits, rule information, education, and some technical assistance. County feedlot staff also participate in the [Minnesota Association of County Feedlot Officers](#).

Now's a good time to review 2011-2016 NPDES general permit

Livestock producers with the new 2011-2016 NPDES general permit for feedlots are encouraged to review its provisions becoming effective Feb. 1, 2011. As of Jan. 4, 762 permits have been issued. Significant changes from the previous permit include: manure management plans cover the entire 5-year period; significant changes during that time must be submitted to the MPCA. The annual report must include (starting in 2012) specific manure application records. Increased restrictions on liquid manure application to frozen or snow-covered fields. Containment of runoff from feed storage pads. The 2011-2016 general permit is a combination of the federal requirements for large Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations and Minnesota rules and statutes. The start date was moved ahead from May 31 to Feb. 1 to better align with the construction season. More information is available on the MPCA feedlot Web site.

NPDES annual reports due March 1

After reviewing their NPDES permit, livestock operators can take a few more minutes to fill out the annual report. Due March 1, this four-page form basically asks for any updates on livestock numbers and manure management activities. The form can be printed from the MPCA feedlot Web page containing permit information and forms, located at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/pyri69d>.

Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center [newsletter](#)

Videos: [Small farm manure storage](#), [manure foaming](#). Manure spill [toolkit](#).

January 21, 2011 Webcast, 1:30 p.m.: Manure Application on Wheat and Side Dressing Manure in Corn. Is there a difference in yield between using manure to top dress wheat and to side dress corn compared to side-by-side plots using commercial fertilizer? Find out the results from five years of on-farm research with Glen Arnold, Ohio State University. [More...](#)

The February Web cast is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 18 at 1:30 pm.

The March presentation is **entitled "How Nature, the Supreme Farmer, Manages Manure"**. It will be given by Ray Archuleta, conservation agronomist, and moderated by Bill Boyd, manure management team leader, both with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. March 25 at 1:30 pm. [More...](#)

Manure application in winter

Spreading manure on frozen or snow-covered ground has received much attention, especially in Iowa, where some operations are not allowed to do this (except in emergency situations). However, not all winter manure applications are created equal. Here are two articles about assessing potential risks associated with winter spreading: [University of Wisconsin](#) Discovery Farms, [Iowa State University](#).



Good Farm Neighbor – Scott and Michelle Hislop, Mapleton

Scott and Michelle Hislop of Mapleton received the Good Farm Neighbor award for November. Hislop Farms, LLP, farrows 7,000 sows and markets 130,000 pigs per year. This is a 5th generation, 143-year-old

family operation with plans for the 6th generation in the near future. In addition they farm 1,400 acres and run a trucking and manure removal enterprise. **The Hislop's new Terragator is equipped with an advanced nutrient management system that ensures that the organic fertilizer is applied precisely and with better distribution into the soil encouraging plant growth without evaporation.**

Good Farm Neighbor – Jim and Brenda Cords, Alden

Jim and Brenda Cords, Alden, received the GFN award for December. The Cords started farming in 1987, expanding over the years to farrow about 700 sows annually, finish 2,400 hogs, and farm 1,200 acres of land with the help of their two sons. They have planted trees near the barn to control some of the dust and odors. All the manure is knifed in to ensure minimizing of odors and potential for pollution.

Good Farm Neighbor award to be discontinued

The Good Farm Neighbor award honors farmers who show concern for their neighbors, their animals, and the environment. For several years the award has been presented monthly by the MDA in partnership with the Minnesota Farm Network, Minnesota Corn Growers Association, and the Minnesota Soybean Promotion Council. Recently, the sponsors decided to discontinue the award. It may be replaced by another format that profiles individual livestock producers.

County staff news

John Knisley returned to Brown County in November, working as the county water planner in charge of WCA and recycling. In 2006, after graduating from Bemidji State, he first starting working in Brown County as the feedlot technician. He then went to Clearwater County as district SWCD manager. On Dec. 6, Grant Pearson took over as the nutrient management specialist with NRCS in Todd County. For the past 11-plus years he was with the Stearns SWCD.

County Profile: Redwood – Jon Mitchell

Redwood County may be more famous as the location of [Farm Fest](#), Jackpot Junction, Monsanto facilities, and the ag research station at [Lamberton](#), but it continues to have a strong livestock industry. There are nearly 350 registered feedlots in Redwood County, including 14 NPDES operations. The numbers are well distributed among beef, dairy, swine, and poultry operations. Each August, Farm Fest draws nearly 40,000 visitors to the 50+ acre site adjacent to the historic Gilfillan Farm. In recent years, the show has included more livestock displays and demonstrations. As director of the Redwood County Environmental Office, Jon Mitchell works on feedlot issues with MPCA feedlot staff from the



Carriage rides during Farm Fest at Gilfillan Farm, Redwood County.

Marshall office. The county's zoning ordinance includes a feedlot chapter, which addresses issues such as setbacks for siting or expanding feedlots and land application of manure. "The beef industry has been strong this year with approximately four conditional use permits approved for cattle yard construction and five new mono-slope buildings by different owners," Jon says. "The cattle yards may be a spin-off of the dried distillers grain ethanol bi-product produced by High Water Ethanol in Lamberton, and also a livestock loan through the FSA Offices. The swine industry has waned over the

last few years, with only two facilities constructed in 2010. For the first time in many years we were without any type of poultry barn construction. We did have a commercial deer farm begin operation.” Jon has been with Redwood County 20 years and oversees programs associated with land use, solid waste, drainage and planning. He has a degree in planning from Minnesota State Mankato and previously worked in Nicollet and Carver counties. He lives with his family in rural Bird Island, and is a volunteer youth wrestling coach and the BOLD High School strength coach. Redwood County Environmental Office [Web page](#).

In The News

[Feedlot Violations Cost DHS Farms \\$30,000](#)

MPCA news release, 1/18/11

[Cleaning Up The Big Sioux River](#)

The Dakota Farmer

[Emissions Data from Animal Feeding Operations Study Now Available](#)

EPA news release, 1/13/11

[Comments sought on proposed dairy expansion in Fillmore County](#)

MPCA news release, 1/10/11

[MPCA third quarter enforcement actions total more than \\$700,000](#)

MPCA news release, 11/29/10

Calendar

Jan. 19-20, 2011: [Pork Congress](#), Minneapolis Convention Center.

Jan. 17-18, 2011: MN Ag Expo, Jackpot Junction, Morton.

March 15-17, 2011: [Midwest Poultry Federation](#) convention, St. Paul RiverCentre.

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