

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Watershed Division

PROPOSED RULE SCOPE

Planned Amendments to Rules Governing Animal Feedlots, Minnesota Rules, chapter 7020, Revisor's ID Number R-04928

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) held a Request for Comments (RFC) on the proposed Animal Feedlots rule from March 24, 2025 to July 22, 2025. The RFC period was the MPCA's legal notice that rulemaking has begun, and now the agency will move into the rule development stage of rulemaking. This stage of rulemaking is expected to take several years, during which time there may not be regular updates on the status of the rule until rule concepts are finalized. The agency will continue to look for opportunities for outreach and engagement during this time.

After reviewing the comments received during the RFC period and taking into consideration the current scope of *Minnesota Rules* Chapter 7020, the agency's statutory authority, program resources, and additional research needs, the agency has developed this scope to outline the topic areas that the MPCA will review during the rulemaking process. The scope is meant to establish boundaries for the rulemaking but does not guarantee that changes to the rule will occur in each of these topic areas.

1. Updates to address changes in livestock and poultry operations and business practices, new agency data services, and outdated language:

- Permit and registration applicability;
- Animal unit factors;
- Clarity of definitions and requirements;
- Legislative alignment;
- Utilization of agency data services; and,
- Delegated County program.

2. Land application of manure practices to address nitrates, bacteria, and fish kills:

- Transferred manure requirements;
- Nitrogen Best Management Practices (BMPs);
- Setbacks;
- Manure Management Plan (MMP) applicability;
- Visual monitoring;
- Rate and location of land application of manure;
- Manure sampling requirements;
- Regional zone requirements; and,
- Recordkeeping requirements.

3. Technical standards to protect water quality and avoid fish kills:

- Manure storage capacity;
- Feed storage design and operation;
- Existing Liquid Manure Storage Area (LMSA) integrity;
- Locational restrictions in sensitive areas;
- Manure storage area design standards;
- Groundwater monitoring; and,
- Livestock access to waters.