



# Animal Feedlots Rulemaking

## Scope Announcement

January 2026

# Feedlot rulemaking recap

*Learn more*



[www.pca.state.mn.us/get-engaged/animal-feedlots](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/get-engaged/animal-feedlots)

# Why rulemaking has started

- Livestock production and agricultural practices have changed in 25 years
  - New information, research, and understanding regarding agriculture and the environment
  - Changes in crop production and nutrient management practices
  - Changes in livestock and poultry production techniques and practices
  - Evolution of regulatory strategies and technologies



# Rule process overview

## COMPLETE

**March 24 –  
July 22, 2025**  
Request for comments  
*Comment period*



**We are here**  
**2026 – TBD**  
Rule writing  
SONAR development

**We are here**  
**2026 – TBD**  
Outreach & Engagement

- *Technical workgroups*
- *Feedlot owners*
- *Stakeholders*



**Dates TBD**  
Internal & legal review  
Governor's office review

**Dates TBD**  
Notice of Hearing  
*Comment period*



**Dates TBD**  
Rule hearing  
*Post-hearing comment & rebuttal period*



**Dates TBD**  
Rule adoption



# Request for comments process



## Request for comments (RFC)

- Legal notice that rulemaking has begun
- Comment period to give feedback, submit comments, and ask questions
  - Comment period opened March 24, 2025
    - The MPCA posed nine specific questions, but any comments could be submitted
  - 13 outreach events across the state in June 2025
    - Discuss areas of focus for potential rule changes and how to participate in the process
  - Comment period ended July 22, 2025

**Just the first opportunity for input**

# RFC Areas of focus

## Land application of manure

- Transferred manure requirements
- Nitrogen Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Setbacks
- Manure Management Plan (MMP) applicability
- Visual monitoring
- Compliance monitoring

## Technical standards

- Manure storage capacity
- Feed storage design and operation
- Existing Liquid Manure Storage Area (LMSA) integrity
- Ground water monitoring
- Livestock access to waters

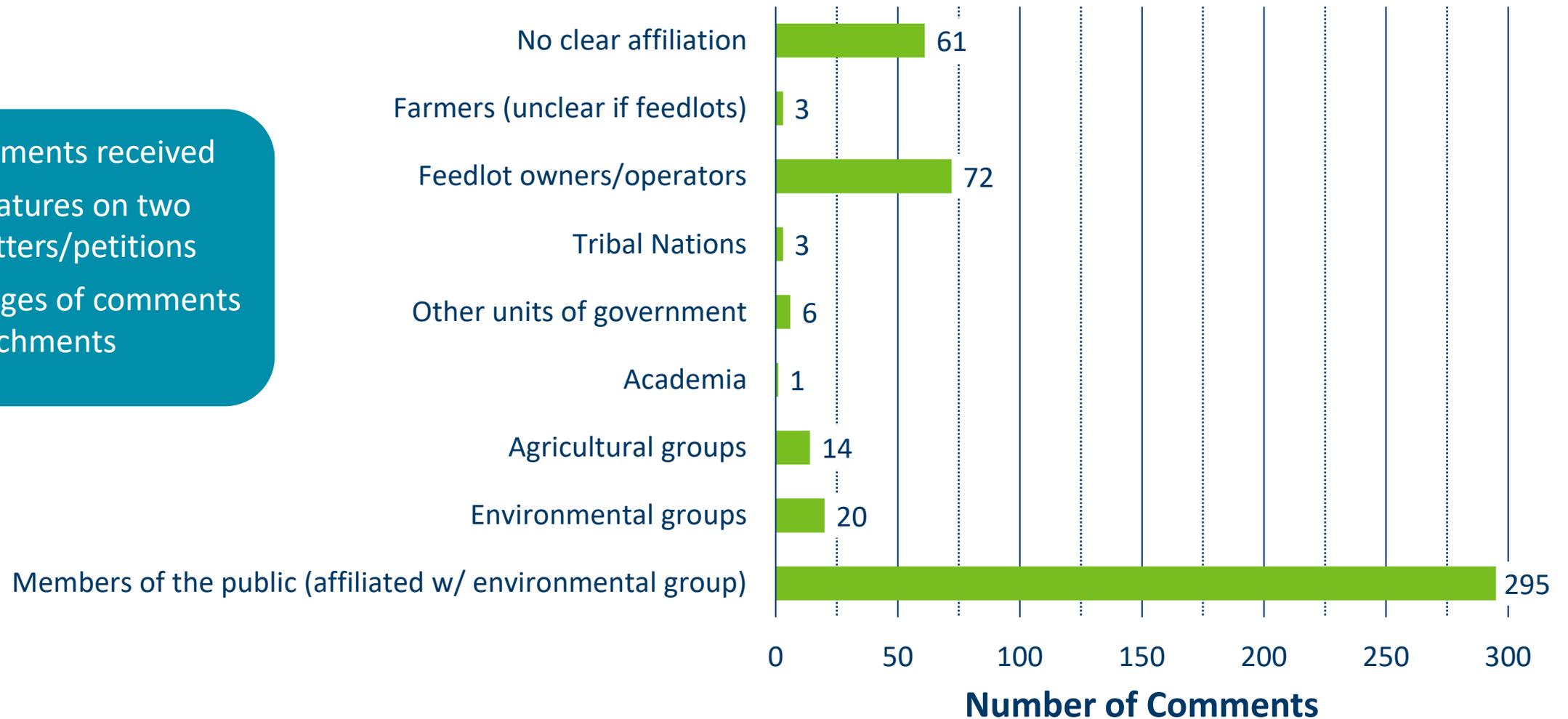
## Rule implementation

- Permit and registration applicability
- Animal unit factors
- Clarity of definitions and requirements
- Legislative alignment
- Utilization of agency data services

# Comments received

## Who Submitted Comments

- 475 comments received
- 688 signatures on two group letters/petitions
- 7,495 pages of comments and attachments



# RFC comment summary

- Every area of focus had comments that supported different/increased regulation as well as comments that supported no changes
- Some broad common ground ideas/comments
  - Base rules on science and keep them easy to understand/enforce
  - Land app. regulations tailored to areas of the state/regional conditions
  - Promotion of BMPs for land application practices



All comments, attachments, and a summary document are available on the Feedlot rulemaking website

[www.pca.state.mn.us/get-engaged/animal-feedlots](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/get-engaged/animal-feedlots)



**Request for comments is complete**

**What happens now?**

# Draft rule and SONAR development (2026-TBD)

## Multi-step process over several years

### 1. Decide rulemaking scope

- RFC comments used to guide scope



### 2. Organize teams

- Internal MPCA feedlot program team
- Technical and owner workgroups

### 3. Develop rule concepts

- Involve workgroups, feedlot owners, and County Feedlot Officers (CFO)
- Consult stakeholders and Tribes
- Decide concepts to advance to draft rules

### 4. Draft rule language and SONAR

Outreach and engagement will happen along the way as well

# Rulemaking scope

- Scope establishes the boundaries of the rulemaking effort
  - The extent of relevant topics that will be reviewed during the rulemaking process to determine if changes to the feedlot rule are warranted
- RFC comments used to help guide scope decision
  - MPCA staff read and analyzed every RFC comment received
  - Not all topics from RFC comments are in scope
    - Consideration of current scope of 7020 and existing authorities, program resources, and research needs

In scope = review need for change  
In scope ≠ changes will be made

# Feedlot rulemaking scope

## Land application of manure

- Transferred manure requirements
- Nitrogen Best Management Practices
- Setbacks
- Manure Management Plan applicability
- Visual monitoring
- Recordkeeping requirements  
~~Compliance monitoring~~
- Rate and location of land application of manure
- Manure sampling requirements
- Regional zone requirements

## Technical standards

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

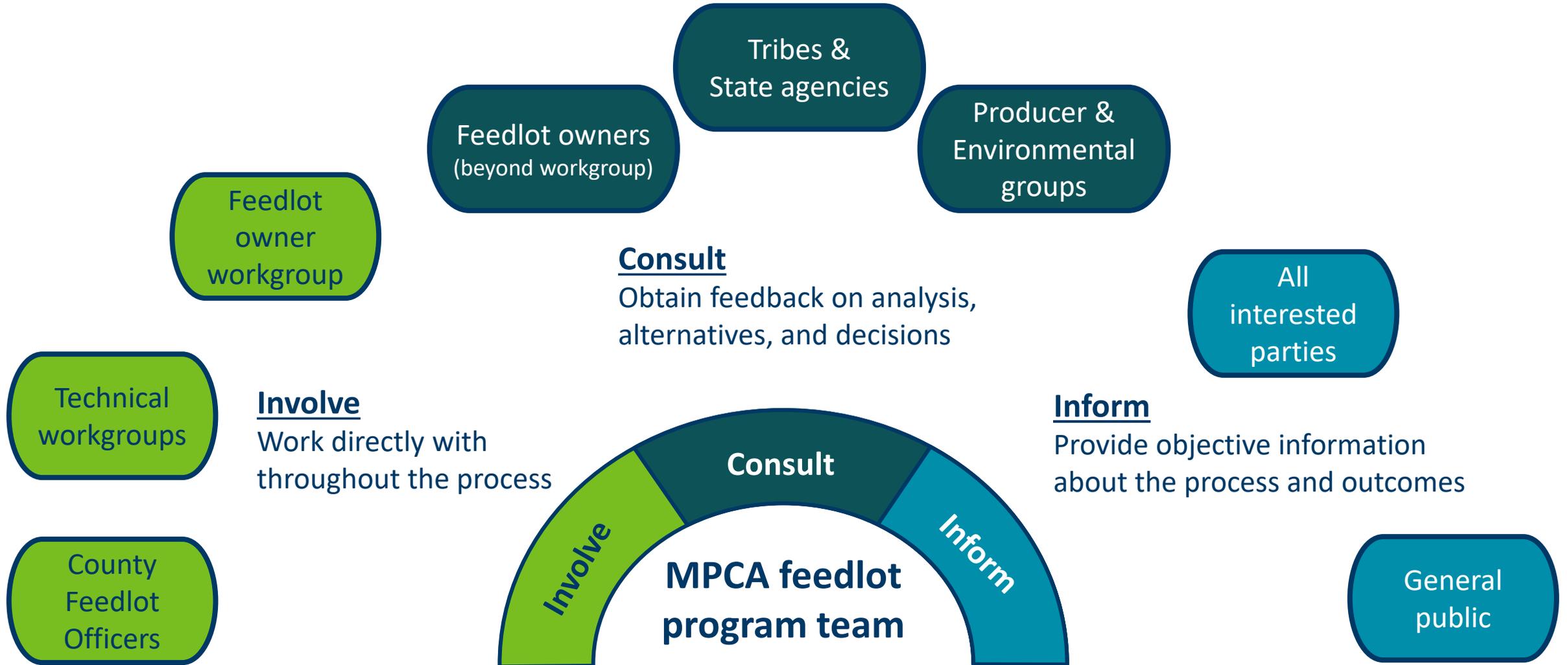
## Rule implementation

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

### Reminder:

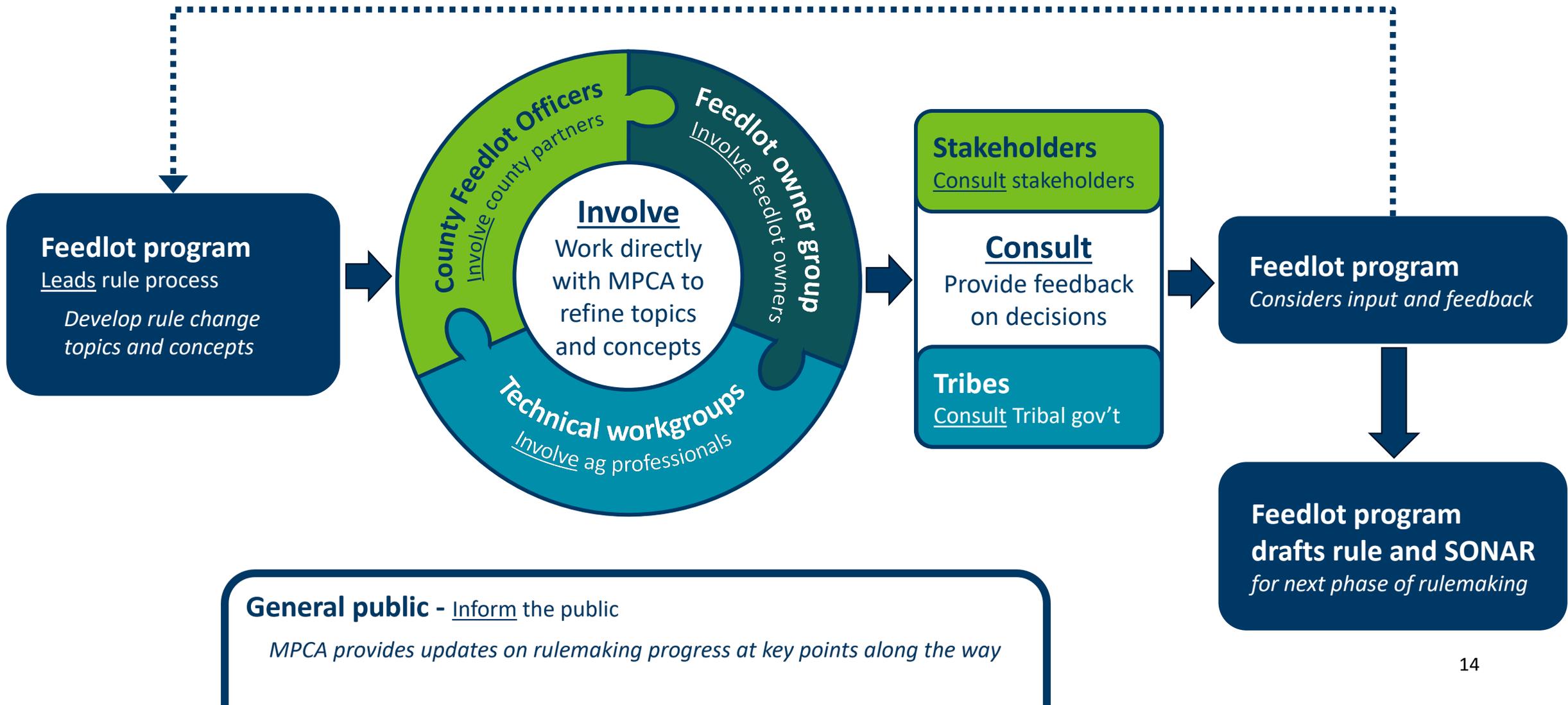
In scope means review the need for rule changes not that changes are guaranteed

# Engagement spectrum



# Rule development process

## Outreach and engagement



# Technical workgroups

## Technical workgroups work directly with the MPCA to refine rule topics and concepts

- Objective professionals in respective fields
  - Chosen by MPCA
- Need for two technical workgroups identified initially
  - More workgroups may be formed during the process

*Note: Technical workgroups were previously termed technical advisory teams*



# Land application workgroup

## Land application workgroup (8 – 10 members selected by the MPCA)

- **Involve** academia and qualified professionals to provide professional judgement on aspects related to land application of manure
  - Who: Agronomists, researchers, geologists, soil scientists
  - Sector: U of MN, NRCS, MDA, DNR, MDH

### **Involve:**

Work directly with during the process

### **Consult:**

Provide feedback on analysis and/or decisions

### **Inform:**

Receive information about analysis and/or decisions

# Standards workgroup

## Standards workgroup (8 – 10 members selected by MPCA)

- **Involve** qualified professionals to provide professional judgment on aspects related to management and storage of manure, process wastewater, and feed
  - Who: Engineers, geologists, soils scientists, hydrologists
  - Sector: NRCS, U of MN, joint powers organizations, private consulting firms, other MPCA programs

### **Involve:**

Work directly with during the process

### **Consult:**

Provide feedback on analysis and/or decisions

### **Inform:**

Receive information about analysis and/or decisions

# Feedlot owner group

## Feedlot owners/operators (10 – 12 members selected by MPCA)

- **Involve** feedlot owners and operators to provide feedback on cost of compliance and implementation feasibility of proposed concepts
  - Various facility sizes
  - Various livestock sectors
  - Various areas of the state

### **Involve:**

Work directly with during the process

### **Consult:**

Provide feedback on analysis and/or decisions

### **Inform:**

Receive information about analysis and/or decisions

## Stakeholders

- **Consult** stakeholders to provide feedback on concepts resulting from CFO, technical workgroups and feedlot owner involvement
  - Feedback provided via an online comment platform or similar method
- Stakeholders include anyone self-affiliated with the following groups:
  - Feedlot owner/operators (beyond those on the owner workgroup)
  - Producer groups
  - Environmental groups
  - State agencies

### **Involve:**

Work directly with during the process

### **Consult:**

Provide feedback on analysis and/or decisions

### **Inform:**

Receive information about analysis and/or decisions

## All interested parties and the public

- **Inform** the public about the proposed rule change concepts and opportunities for participation later in the rulemaking process
  - Webinars, website updates, newsletter updates
  - No feedback or comments at this stage
    - Feedback/comments happen during the next stage – public hearing

### **Involve:**

Work directly with during the process

### **Consult:**

Provide feedback on analysis and/or decisions

### **Inform:**

Receive information about analysis and/or decisions

**Today's take-home points**

# Feedlot rulemaking scope summary

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- Delegated county program

### Reminder:

In scope means review the need for rule changes, not that changes are guaranteed

## Multi-step process over several years

### 1. Decide rulemaking scope

- RFC comments used to guide scope

← Complete – Scope announcement Jan 2026

### 2. Organize teams

- Internal MPCA feedlot program team
- Technical and owner workgroups

← Next – MPCA starts to organize teams  
(Estimated completion in spring 2026)

### 3. Develop rule concepts

- Involve workgroups, feedlot owners, and CFOs
- Consult stakeholders and Tribes
- Decide concepts to advance to draft rules

### 4. Draft rule language and SONAR

It may be a while before some of you hear more from the MPCA

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# Thank you

*Need more info?*



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