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**MOWER COUNTY
FALL 2024**

FEEDLOT NEWSLETTER

Changes to the Mower County Feedlot Ordinance

- **Feedlot Registration-** *a data collection sheet issued by the county to allow for more than 10 animal units*
- **Feedlot Permit-** *a document issued when you are proposing construction or expansion of over 300 animal units or if a pollution hazard has been identified.*
- **Hobby Farm-** *a lot, building, or combination intended for holding less than 10 animal units.*

Special conditions exist:

1. 1000ft setback to neighboring dwellings does NOT apply
2. Limited to 100 poultry or less
3. NOT required to register in Mower County

See Mower County Ordinance for the complete list.

- **Feedlot, Existing-** *any feedlot that is already registered, or had obtained a letter from MPCA by December 31, 1999.*

Who is required to register in Mower County?

- *Any farm that has a lot, building, or combination of lot and building that is capable of holding, raising, breeding, or feeding 10 or more animal units.*

See the full Mower County Ordinance at the link below.
<https://www.co.mower.mn.us/203/Ordinances>

If you have any questions regarding the ordinance, please contact the Mower County Feedlot Officer.

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THE RISE OF NITRATES IN THE SOUTHEAST REGION OF MINNESOTA

In April 2023, the EPA received a Safe Drinking Water Act petition for the Southeast Region of Minnesota.

Too much nitrate is polluting Minnesota's lakes, rivers, and groundwater.

- On average, 158 million pounds of nitrate leave Minnesota per year in the Mississippi River.
- More than 70% of the nitrate in MN waters comes from cropland.
 1. The majority of nitrates comes from commercial fertilizer applied to the fields.
 2. Other sources include wastewater treatment plants, septic systems, and urban runoff.



How can we producers reduce nitrates?

1. Manage in-field nitrates: *optimize fertilizer rates, apply fertilizer closer to the timing of crop use.*
2. Manage and treat tile drainage water: *plan tile spacing & depth, control drainage, use bioreactors.*
3. Diversify vegetation/landscape: *plant cover crops, plant more perennials on marginal cropland.*

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air-water-land-climate/reducing-nutrients-in-waters>

Land application record keeping aids in knowing your nitrogen levels when applying manure and commercial fertilizer

“Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil, and you're a thousand miles from the cornfield”

- Dwight D. Eisenhower



LAND APPLICATION RECORD KEEPING

Nitrogen and Phosphorous are the elements being reviewed

Who is required to keep records according to Mn Rule 7020?

1. Any feedlot that is *REGISTERED* for over 100 animal units (AU).

How many years of records are required to keep on hand?

2. For feedlots registered for 100 AU – 299AU need to have **at least 3 years** of record.
3. For feedlots registered for 300 or more AU need to have **at least 6 years** of record.

Any questions about record keeping, in need of record keeping sheets that indicate all the required information needed, or manure testing kits please contact the Mower County Feedlot Officer.

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WHAT REQUIREMENTS ARE NEEDED TO BE COMPLIANT FOR RECORD KEEPING?

1. Manure analysis that is less than 4 years old
2. Field ID
3. Number of acres per field
4. Crop rotation history
5. Date of application
6. Application rate
7. Application method (knife inject, sweep inject, broadcasting)
8. Plant available nitrogen from manure and commercial fertilizer

If registered for over 300 AU, you will also need to have:

1. Soil analysis for each field that is less than 4 years old
2. Plant available phosphorous from manure and commercial fertilizer

What to have that makes it more convenient for the Mower County Feedlot Officer

1. Field maps
2. Type of commercial fertilizer and the rate at which it is applied per acre

What to do if you have a spill?

1. **CONTAIN** the spill
2. **SELF REPORT**- #1: State Duty Officer (651) 649-6580 #2- Mower County Feedlot officer (507) 279-7149

3. **RECOVER, PUMP, ABSORB**- recover pooled manure & solids, get a pump truck, and if necessary, scrape large accumulations (leave the vegetation), straw, corn stalk bales, hay, and sawdust are great absorbents that can be land applied

