

GRANTS, LOANS & OTHER COST-SHARE AVAILABLE!!!

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There are several resources available for producers to obtain grants, low interest loans and other state and federal cost-share to implement fixes and other practices to help conserve and enhance soil, water, air and natural resources on their land and improve runoff quality from feedlots. The following programs are currently available, in Dodge County:

- AgBMP Loans
- Conservation Stewardship Program (Practice Implementation)
- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (Cost- Share)
- Feedlot IV and V (SEMWRB) Grants
- Clean Water Amendment Grants
- Dodge County Environmental Grant and Loan Fund

Funds can be used to cover eligible work ranging from the purchase of supplies and services to technical assistance, engineering and installation of practices.

Eligible practices which improve the quality of runoff water from feedlots include, but are not limited to, structure, diversions, roof runoff diversions, settling basins, filter strips, manure storage, manure management and milkhouse waste treatment systems.

Please see the attached spreadsheet for a more complete list of available grant, loan and other cost-share program opportunities offered in Dodge County.

If you are interested in these programs, please contact the appropriate contact listed on the attached spreadsheet.

Please, take advantage of it now, because it won't last forever...



Points of interest:

- Grant, loan and cost-share funding
- Technical Assistance Available

GRANT APPLICATION CYCLE STARTING SOON—GET YOURS IN!

Dodge County will be submitting another grant application to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for projects funded by the Clean Water Amendment money for fiscal year 2013.

Funds to producers come in the form of a grant for a specific feed-

lot fix. These funds provide up to 75% of the total project cost, which can be matched against a local match. The local match can be in the form of landowner contributed funds or in-kind (labor, equipment, etc.) sources.

In addition, the Dodge County Environmental Grant and Loan Fund offers grants up to \$1500/feedlot which can be used to meet the 25% local match requirement. If you are interested, please call (507) 635-6283 ASAP!!!



SHORT- TERM STOCKPILES

Stockpiling of manure is a common method of storing solid manure (defined as having at least 15% solids content or able to hold a 3-1 ratio when stacked) and used as bedding/litter until it can be applied to cropland as fertilizer.

This method is generally used by small horse, dairy, beef and poultry operations because their size makes the expense of a manure storage structure prohibitive. The MPCA has developed requirements for stockpiling of all manure and/or bedding material containing manure.

Manure may not be stockpiled for more than one year. The same stockpile site cannot be used from year to year. All of the accumulated manure is required to be removed from the site at least once per year and spread on cropland at agronomic rates as fertilizer. A vegetative cover must then be established for at least one full growing season before the site can have manure stockpiled on it again. Exceptions to establishing a vegetative cover between stockpiling use is made for cattle at open lots with 100 animal units or less and where the stockpile is land-applied in fewer than 10 days. The latter exception is only allowed 6 times per year.

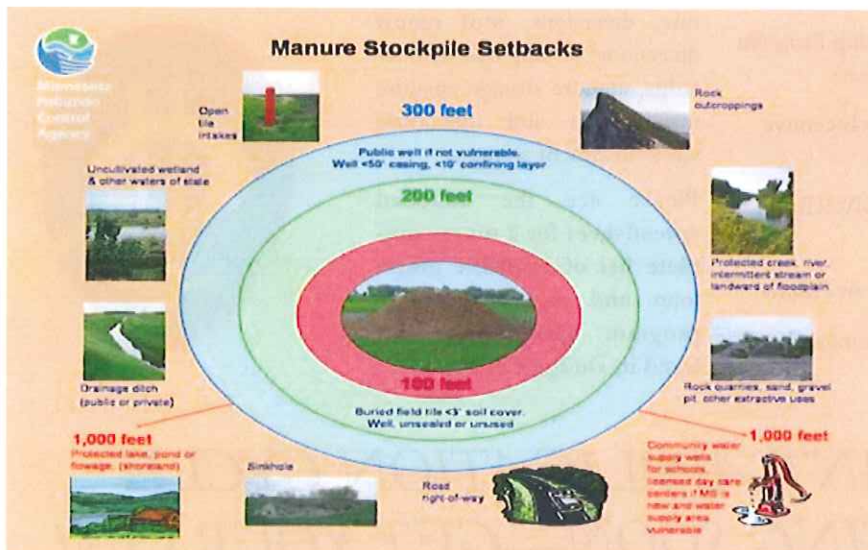
STOCKPILES NOT ALLOWED

- On land with greater than 6% slopes
- On land with slopes between 2% and 6%, except where clean-water diversions and erosion –control practices are installed
- On soils where the texture to a depth of 5 feet is coarser than a sandy loam as identified in the most recent USDA/NRCS Soil Survey. This provision impacts only special cases where a field may sit on a potential gravel resource or an old river bed. Most fields would not have coarse soil conditions across the entire site.

RECORDKEEPING

The owner of the feedlot where the manure was produced must keep records on file for each manure stockpile site for at least 3 years. MPCA staff or the CFO may review them by request. The records should include information on:

- Location of stockpile
- Date it was piled
- Volume of manure in the stockpile
- Nitrogen and Phosphorus content of the manure
- Date when stockpile was land applied



For more information about stockpiles or to download a copies of Factsheets and other feedlot publications, visit the MPCA website at:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/topics/feedlots/feedlots.html>

NOTIFICATION—COMPLIANCE INSPECTION STARTING AGAIN SOON

Under the Feedlot Delegation Agreement with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Dodge County is required to maintain a 7% inspection rate of the feedlots required to be registered on an annual basis. Many feedlots have already had this routine inspection which reviews such things as manure management and land application, recordkeeping and other parts of the feedlot operation which are site specific, such as stockpiles and composting, when applicable. If you have not yet been contacted about a Compliance Inspection in the last four years, you may be contacted this year to set up this inspection. If you have any questions regarding this information, or would like to schedule this inspection, please contact this office at (507) 635-6302. For more information on the MPCA’s operation and maintenance requirements that may apply to your feedlot, please contact this office at (507) 635-6283 or visit the MPCA’s website listed in the green text box , above.

Free Service for Producers: Got a Plan?

Kathrine Richards is the new Nutrient Management Specialist for Rice, Steel, Freeborn, Goodhue, Wabasha and Dodge counties. She started in October of 2010 and is stationed at the Rice County Soil and Water Conservation District. She writes Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMPs) and Manure Management Plans (MMPs) for the NRCS, MPCA and feedlot officers. Though the emphasis of these plans is on proper manure applications, she also does plans for operators who want an unbiased fertilizer recommendation.

Who needs a Plan?

Manure Management Plans are required when:

- A permit application is submitted from an operation with 100 or more animal units (AU) after October 23, 2000 (permit types include NPDES, SDS, Interim or Construction Short Form); OR
- Manure from a feedlot capable of holding 300 or more AU is applied by someone other than a certified animal waste technician.

KATHRINE'S INFO

Kathrine grew up on a corn-soybean family farm in southern Steele County where her family finished out steer and hogs. In middle and high school she was active in 4-H showing livestock at the Steele County Fair. She graduated high school in May 2006 and attended South Dakota State University in Brookings where she completed her Bachelor's degree in Agronomy in May of 2010. During the summers, she assisted with bailing on the farm and interned with the local cooperative as a crop scout.

Kathrine's services for the preparation of CNMPs and MMPs are currently offered FREE of charge for producers in Dodge County.

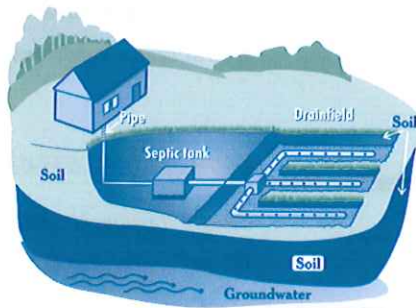
For more info or to set up an appointment, please call (507) 635-6272.

MMPs must be reviewed by the owner each year and adjusted for any changes in the amount of manure production, nutrient test results, fields available for receiving manure, crop rotation, or other practices which affect the available nutrient amount of crop nutrient needs on field receiving manure.

SEPTIC GRANT FUNDING

Grant Funding may be available for low income households with failing septic systems. If you feel you may qualify, check the income guidelines listed on our website at www.co.dodge.mn.us located on the Septic page under Public Works/Environmental Services. Applications must be received before Dodge County can apply to the BWSR for grant funding.

For more information, please contact Sandra Schaefer at 507-635-6273



RECORDKEEPING

Dodge County is looking at hosting an informational meeting for interested producer's on the MPCA's recordkeeping requirements. Under the feedlot rules, there are record keeping requirements associated with manure and process wastewater application, manure stockpiles and compost areas, to name a few. Nutrient Management Specialist Kathrine Richards, (See "Free Service for Producers: Got a Plan?") would be available to come to Dodge County for a special informational meeting to assist producers in understanding the requirements for their individual feedlot. If interested, contact Environmental Services at (507) 635-6272.

BIOFILTERS— Media List and Cost Share

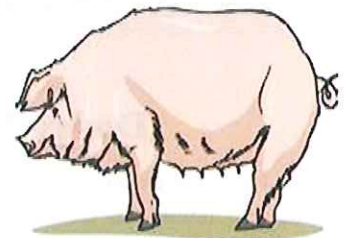
Bio-filters on pit fans are currently utilized to mitigate odor concerns and air quality issues from permitted swine feedlots. The University of Minnesota's BEAU-18 bio-filter, which is the standard bio-filter used in Dodge County, utilizes a mixture of wood chips (media) and compost in its designs.

Recently, some producers have

expressed that media is both costly and difficult to find. As a result, Dodge County has compiled a list of businesses which supply media along with their quoted cost. This list is available on the web at www.co.dodge.mn.us which is located under Public Works/Environmental Services/Feedlots.

Cost-share for installation of the University of Minnesota's BEAU-18 bio- filters may be available through the USDA's Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).

For more information on EQIP, please contact the Dodge County NRCS office at (507) 374-6364 Ext 3.



Pastures and the Feedlot Rules

Pastures are a common type of livestock operation in Minnesota. Typical examples include beef grazing and cow/calf operations. Distinguishing pasture operations from a feedlot is not always easy. Some operations include both pasture and feedlot components. Minnesota's feedlot rule governs the application for and issuance of permits for the construction and operation of animal feedlots and manure storage facilities. The rule also regulates the storage, transportation, disposal and utilization of animal manure and process wastewaters. This rule does not regulate pasture-only operations. If an operation is really a combination of pasture and feedlot, then only the portion of the operation that is a "feedlot" is regulated by the feedlot rule. Pasture operators need to ask themselves this question: *Is part of my operation a feedlot?*

Properly maintained pastures reduce surface run-off and soil erosion by slowing down and using surface water and plant nutrients. Developing and maintaining best management practices to avoid a pollution hazard or an imminent public health threat is the owner's responsibility. Pasture operations are not exempt from Minnesota's Water Quality Rules (MN Rules Chapter 7050 and 7060).

"Pasture" means areas, including winter feeding areas as part of a grazing area, where grass or other growing plants are used for grazing and where the concentration of animals allows a vegetative cover to be maintained during the growing season. In pasture operations, vegetative cover is not required: (1) in the immediate vicinity of supplemental feeding or water devices, (2) in associated corrals and chutes where livestock are gathered for the purpose of sorting, veterinary services, loading and unloading trucks and trailers, and other necessary activities related to good animal husbandry practices, and (3) in associated livestock access lanes used to convey livestock to and from areas of the pasture. If the operation does not meet the above, it is considered a feedlot.

The intent of the term *vegetative cover* is to require cover throughout the pasture, such that the soil erosion and runoff from the area is not an environmental problem. There are areas in a pasture, for example cow paths and shady gathering spots, that may not maintain vegetative cover throughout the year. It is not the intent of the feedlot rule to define these areas as feedlots.

Manure accumulation is important only with regard to its affect on vegetative cover. If manure accumulation in an area is minimal enough that vegetative cover can be maintained during the growing season, it is not considered a feedlot, but a pasture operation. If manure accumulates in an area to an extent that vegetative cover cannot be maintained without regular manure removal, the area is considered a feedlot except if it meets the definition of a supplemental feeding or watering device area, working area or access lanes.

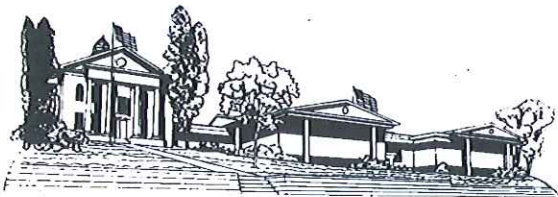
Dodge County Feedlot Flyer

Dodge County Environmental Services
22 6th St. East, Dept. 391
Mantorville, MN 55955

Phone: 507-635-6272
Fax: 507-635-6193

We're on the web!

<http://www.co.dodge.mn.us>



Dodge County

If you have suggestions for informational articles you would like to see in the next newsletter, please contact Environmental Services at (507) 635-6272.

The Dodge County Environmental Services Department provides services for the protection of public health and the Environment. The Department is also responsible for regulating land use to promote sustainable and compatible development while protecting the general health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Dodge County.

Please call (507) 635-6273 for information regarding:

Sewage Treatment Systems, Wetlands, Waste Disposal, Recycling, Water Testing and Water Monitoring.

Please call (507) 635-6272 for information regarding:

Zoning, Permits, Feedlots, Grading/Excavations, Shoreland, Floodplain, or other land use questions/concerns.

For the Transfer Station, Landfill & Recycling Center, please call (507) 634-7875.