

Feedlot registration

Minnesota law requires most feedlot owners to register their feedlot with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Owners meet [feedlot registration requirements](#) by providing basic information to the MPCA. Owners who have applied for a permit are automatically registered.

Feedlot owners are required to update their registration information within a four-year cycle. Registration information includes location, type of operation and number of livestock including poultry. The next deadline for maintaining a current registration of Minnesota’s estimated 18,000 feedlots is December 31, 2021. Owners, who according to MPCA records, have not updated their registration within 90 days of the end of the current four-year period will be notified that they must update their registration.



How do I register?

Anyone can register a site, whether new or an update, using the [online service](#) via an internet connection to a computer, tablet, or smart phone. Paper forms, forms submitted via U.S. mail, and e-mail submittals have been discontinued. Some counties delegated to carry-out the MPCA’s feedlot program, may continue to register feedlots and manure storage areas with paper forms.

Am I required to register?

The location and number of animals at the site determines whether or not a feedlot must register. Owners of the following operations must register:

1. Feedlots located in shoreland, with 10 animal units or more.
2. Feedlots located outside of shoreland, with 50 animal units or more.

Animal units	Dairy cows	Beef cows	Finishing swine
10	8	10	34
50	36	50	167

Shoreland. [Shoreland](#), in most instances, refers to land that is 1,000 feet or less from a lake or 300 feet or less from a river or stream. In rare instances, land near large ponds, wetlands or ditches is classified as shoreland.

Animal unit. An [animal unit](#) is a term used to compare the differences in the production of animal manure. The table above shows the typical number of animals that it takes to exceed 10 animal units or 50 animal units.

Large feedlots with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System or State Disposal System operating permits already meet the registration requirement. A separate registration is not necessary. Owners who have closed their feedlots are not required to register, provided that the online system has been used for recording the closure. The MPCA defines a closed feedlot as one that has not had animals for the past five years.

Pastures

Livestock operations that are only pastures do not need to be registered. The [definition of pastures](#) in Minn. R. 7020 states that pastures are areas where grass or other growing plants are used for grazing, and where the concentration of animals is such that a vegetation cover is maintained during the growing season, except in the immediate vicinity of temporary supplemental feeding or watering devices.

A typical example of a pasture operation exempted from registration is a cow-calf operation that houses no animals in buildings or lots, but has winter feeding and sheltering areas within the pasture. The owners of these facilities pasture their livestock during the growing season and provide supplemental feed for them at various locations in the pasture during the winter months. (See factsheet: [“Managing Livestock Feeding on Pasture and Crop Residue”](#)).

Failure to register

Failure to register a feedlot that is required to register and/or failure to re-register a feedlot that is required to register is a violation of feedlot rules.

Why registration?

Registration data allows the MPCA to identify feedlots according to active or inactive sites, and number of animals at the site and location. This information helps to prioritize those operations with the greatest pollution risk, and to work with owners if a pollution hazard is present. Registration data is also important to MPCA planners and the legislature who need to plan for funding needs to assist producers with technical assistance, cost share and other financial assistance.

More information

More information about feedlot registration and the feedlot rule is available here:

www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/7020/, or call your [MPCA area office](#) or delegated [county feedlot officer](#) listed on these webpages: www.pca.state.mn.us/water/mpca-feedlot-staff-contacts, www.pca.state.mn.us/water/county-feedlot-program.