Carver County
Environmental Services
Feedlot Program

Summer 2025
Volume 4, Issue 2

The Barnyard Buzz

Agricultural Improvement Loan Program

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture offers a loan participation program to help eligible farmers finance capital improvements to their farming operation. The program may help to improve production, efficiency, and increase farm income.

Eligible activities include the purchase and construction or installation of improvements to land, buildings, and other permanent structures. This includes equipment that is incorporated in or permanently affixed to land, buildings, or structures which are useful for and intended for farming practices.

Participating farmers will work through their local lender. If the lender agrees to extend a mortgage loan to the applicant, both the lender and the applicant will jointly complete an application for Rural Finance Authority (RFA) participation. The RFA must have a fully executed Master Participation Agreement on file with the lender. The RFA may participate in the loan for up to 45% of the principal amount, not to exceed a maximum of $500,000. Proceeds from the loan may be used to refinance a limited portion of existing debt.

The participation term may extend up to a maximum of 10 years, and the loan may include a balloon payment. Collateral must include a first mortgage on farm real estate; however, this does not need to include the farmstead.

An affordable fixed interest rate for a set period of time serves as the primary incentive for utilizing the RFA program. To obtain a rate quote, please contact the RFA directly. A non-refundable application fee of $50.00 applies to all loans. Lenders may also collect standard closing costs. Eligibility requirements are list

Eligible borrowers must be Minnesota residents, Minnesota domestic family farm corporations, or family farm partnerships. The borrower or at least one of the borrowers must be the principal operator of the farm. Additionally, the borrower's total net worth must not exceed $1,042,000 in 2025.

To access more information about the program, visit www.mda.state.mn.us and search “Agricultural Improvement Loan Program”. If you have any questions about the program, please contact the RFA at 651-201-6004 or RFA.Loans@state.mn.us.

Inside this issue

Carver County Environmental Services

Phone: 952-361-1800
www.recyclecarver.org

Matt Steele
Carver County Feedlot Officer
(952) 361-1808
msteele@carvercountymn.gov

Types of flies found on the farm

Stable flies

- Found in confined areas like barns
- Reproduce mainly in soiled bedding
- Will bite cows on the legs

House flies

- May be found around face of cows but won't bite
- Reproduce in organic debris, mainly manure
- Feed on secretions from the nose and eyes

Horn flies

- Found on pasture and reproduce in dung pats
- Will bite cows on their backs, sides, and bellies

Face flies

- Found on pasture and reproduce in dung pats
- Will not bite cows but they scrape cows' eyeballs for fluid

Fly Management for Cattle Operations

It's important for feedlot operators to successfully manage fly populations on the farm to prevent them from becoming a nuisance, avoid decreased production of cattle, and reduce the potential of disease transmission.

Fly management is a critical component in maintaining the health and productivity of cattle. Flies can lead to a range of issues that not only impact animal comfort but also reduce overall farm yield. Managing flies helps prevent stress, disease transmission, and weight loss in cattle, which directly affects the farm's bottom line. Cleanliness and sanitation are the most important steps in a fly management plan for cattle. Proper sanitation practices help minimize fly breeding sites, reducing fly populations and the associated risks to cattle health and productivity.

It's important for livestock owners to remove possible breeding sites such as rotting hay or grain, spilled feed, manure piles, and other decaying matter. It's recommended that soiled bedding is scraped, hauled, spread, or composted every other week during the summer.

Scouting is an effective management method to determine where flies are reproducing on your property. Examine areas that contain organic matter and dig or scrape around to search for larvae to identify trouble areas. It's ideal to clean out these areas in the spring to minimize fly breeding over the summer months.

Sticky traps can help you determine whether to use additional management practices such as chemical control and fly baits can effectively attract house flies while fly traps reduce the number of pasture flies found on cattle.

Chemical management methods such as premise sprays effectively control stable flies and house flies while ear tags, dust bags, and back rubbers are effective for face flies. Horn flies should be managed with pour-ons, sprays, dust bags, feed additives, and insecticide ear tags.

Predators and parasitoids are types of biological management methods utilized to manage fly populations. Chickens, rove beetles, and hister beetles may be used to eat fly larvae and parasitoid wasps lay their eggs inside fly pupae which kills them and prevents adult flies from emerging.

For more information on methods to utilize for effectively managing fly populations on your farm, visit https://extension.umn.edu and search "Managing flies on cattle farms".

Manure application in the summer

Pros

- Can apply manure directly to a growing crop and reduce nutrient losses
- Gives producers another window of opportunity for manure application

Cons

- Requires the use of specialized equipment
- Timing may not be ideal for livestock operations or solid manure

Recommendations

- Inject or incorporate manure between rows of growing crops as soon as possible to maximize value of nutrients

MPCA Feedlot Rulemaking Process

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is updating feedlot rules to improve land application of manure and establish additional technical standards. Revisions will also address changes in livestock operation business practices, account for new agency data services, and modernize rule language.

In-person public information sessions will be held throughout Minnesota in June. Below are the dates and locations for these meetings.

- June 3 - Hinckley (9:30 - 11:30 a.m.) & Little Falls (1:30 - 3:30 p.m.)
- June 4 - Morris (9:00 - 11:00 a.m.) & Detroit Lakes (2:00 - 4:00 p.m.)
- June 5 - Thief River Falls (9:30 - 11:30 a.m.) & Bemidji (2:00 - 4:00 p.m.)
- June 17 - Paynesville (2:00 - 4:00 p.m.)
- June 18 - Marshall (9:30 - 11:30 a.m.) & Worthington (2:00 - 4:00 p.m.)
- June 24 - New Ulm (9:30—11:30 a.m.) & Albert Lea (2:30 - 4:30 p.m.)
- June 26 - Chatfield (9:30 - 11:30 a.m.) & Zumbrota (2:30 - 4:30 p.m.)

For a brief summary of the rule revision, to submit comments, or to sign up for updates, please visit www.pca.state.mn.us/get-engaged/animal-feedlots.

Drought Management for Cow/Calf Operations

Cow/calf producers should have a plan in place to account for drought conditions when pastures and hayfields are in poor condition. It's important for operators to execute a management plan before conditions become dire. A few considerations to manage your herd are listed below.

Surface water
Surface water is the main source of water for grazing cattle in many instances. If water is dried up due to drought, it's important to begin hauling water well in advance of natural surface water running out.

Pest control
Pest control is even more important during periods of drought and a key component of effective management. It's important to utilize items such as dust bags, oilers, rubs and fly tags to effectively control flies, mosquitoes, and ticks to keep cattle more comfortable.

Early wean calves
Weaning calves early has been shown to reduce grass intake of cows by approximately 25 percent. Nutrition is the key for success for early weaning. Be sure to perform vaccinations and control dust to mitigate dust pneumonia and adequate fly control. In addition, creep-feeding calves could help save grass, as calves kept on a low to moderate energy creep will reduce grass intake by as much as 20 percent.

Culling cows
It may be the only option to sell your cows to reduce the need for grass. If it comes to this, sell your older cows first and follow with cows 6-8 years old.

For more information, visit https://extension.umn.edu and search "Drought management for Minnesota cow-calf producers".

Feed Storage Area Location & Technical Requirements

- Place at least 50 feet from a well
- Place at least 300 feet from surface waters
- Locate feed storage area on flat ground that is concrete, asphalt, or at least one foot of cohesive soil
- Locate stockpiles on soils that have at least 3 feet to the seasonal high water table and five feet to bedrock unless concrete or asphalt is used
- Divert all surface water runoff away from the storage area

Matt Steele
Carver County Feedlot Officer
Office: (952) 361-1808
Mobile: (612) 257-0019
msteele@co.carver.mn.us

Feed Storage Areas

Feedlot owners must carefully consider the potential environmental impacts of feed storage areas at their facility and manage the area used to store feedstocks correctly to prevent discharges from reaching surface waters.

Two types of liquid are generated at areas used to store feedstocks for animals.

- Leachate is liquid generated from the moisture of feedstocks as they undergo the ensiling process.
- Feed storage area runoff is liquid generated when precipitation comes into contact with feedstocks or the surrounding area that contains residual feed.

Corn silage leachate usually has a significantly higher pollutant strength and is approximately 200 times stronger than raw domestic sewage. Just 1 gallon of silage leachate can reduce the oxygen levels in 10,000 gallons of surface water to a point where fish and other aquatic life can no longer survive. Feedlots need to consider the environmental effects of discharge from a feed storage area to prevent a pollution hazard. Below are best management practices for managing a feed storage area at your facility.

- Harvest silage at a moisture content of 65% or less
- Divert surface water runoff away from the storage area
- Cover silage with plastic to prevent precipitation from entering the feedstock pile
- Add dry materials to silage to absorb excess moisture to create less leachate
- Obtain a permit and install a collection system like a basin or storage tank
- Plant shorter maturity varieties of corn to produce a drier crop and less leachate

A feedlot operator who stores more than 1,000 tons of sweet corn silage at any time must be approved for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System or State Disposal System permit from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The permit contains specific requirements for the operation of feed storage areas and the management of leachate and runoff. The facility is required to comply with the following standards to ensure proper environmental protection and regulatory compliance.

Land application to cropland is the primary method for managing leachate and runoff collected from feed storage areas. Minimum required setbacks must be followed and application must comply with all manure application requirements in accordance with Minn. R. 7020.2225.

For more information about feed storage areas, please visit the MPCA website at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/ and search “Feed storage areas”. If you would like assistance with the placement of a feed storage area, please contact Matt Steele at 952-361-1808 or msteele@carvercountymn.gov.

Agricultural Plastic Recycling program

The spring Agricultural, Marine, and Greenhouse Plastic Recycling program collection is available to residents through **June 17, 2025.**

For more information, please contact Matt Steele at 952-361-1808 or msteele@carvercountymn.gov.

Special waste collection

Saturday, Sept 13, 2025
8:00am to 12:00pm
Hollywood Public Works
3480 Co Rd 21
Hollywood Township

For more information, visit www.recyclecarver.org and search "special waste collections."

Mission Statement

"The Carver County Environmental Services Department is committed to protecting the environment through public service, education, and innovation."

The MPCA is a sponsoring agency with a grant supporting a portion of the delegated Carver County feedlot program. Carver County does not claim that MPCA endorses its products or services.

New Operating Hours at the Environmental Center

The Carver County Environmental Center hours will be changing to better serve the community starting June 4. Since opening in 2002, the Carver County Environmental Center has provided residents and small businesses with a convenient location to safely dispose of household hazardous waste, electronics, appliances, and more. The Environmental Center has served over 600,000 visitors and has been instrumental in recycling and responsibly managing millions of pounds of materials, playing a vital role in protecting both Carver County residents and the environment.

Participation at the Environmental Center and the volume of materials managed have continued to increase each year, a trend driven by the County's rapid growth and changes in the types of materials being disposed of. As this trend is expected to continue, the County has recognized the need to explore future operational strategies to ensure the safe, efficient flow of both people and materials at the facility.

The Environmental Center will implement new operating hours starting June 4 to address growing demand while maintaining high-quality service. These changes are designed to reduce wait times, improve traffic flow, minimize staff down-time, and provide consistent weekday opening hours, while also adding two extra hours of service each week.

New Operating Hours

- Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Saturday: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Free Car and Truck Tire Recycling

Waste tires can become habitat for several types of mosquitoes including the species that can transmit diseases like La Crosse encephalitis or West Nile virus. In order to reduce disease risk, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD) has enacted a waste tire recycling program to pick up and remove tires from District residents. Tires that are not being collected should be stored indoors or covered to prevent collecting water.

Residents of Dakota, Scott, and Carver counties are eligible for the **FREE tire drop-off days** at designated MMCD locations. Residents can drop-off tires on specific dates and MMCD will cover the cost to recycle them. **MMCD will NOT be picking up tires at homes** for residents of Dakota, Scott, and Carver Counties in 2025:

- Must show proof of residence when dropping off tires. (Driver's license, utility bill, etc.)
- Limit 20 tires per household.
- **Tires must be off the rims and standard car or light truck sized**.

Wednesday, June 4, 2025
9:00am - 2:00pm
Scott County Fair Grounds
7151 W 190th St
Jordan, MN 55352

For more information visit https://mmcd.org/tire-recycling/ or call the MMCD Front Desk at (651) 645-9149.