

Steps to take when planning to construct or expand a feedlot:

- Determine the locations of vulnerable public water supply wells and wellhead protection areas;
- Determine whether your feedlot or manure application areas will include the area around a vulnerable public water supply well;
- Check with your county feedlot officer or the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency about permit conditions in wellhead protection areas;
- Ask your community water supplier if they have prepared a wellhead protection plan; and
- Contact the Minnesota Department of Health for more information about the Wellhead Protection Program (Message Center for the Drinking Water Protection Section 1-800-818-9318 or staff listed inside this brochure).

Minnesota Department of Health
Division of Environmental Health
Source Water Protection Unit
121 East Seventh Place, P.O. Box 64975
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0975



FEEDLOTS AND DRINKING WATER



**What Feedlot Operators
Can do to Protect
Public Water Supplies**

How can a feedlot affect ground-water used for drinking?

Improper storage or application of manure may 1) increase the level of nitrate nitrogen or 2) release disease organisms into drinking water supplies. Both nitrate and disease organisms are contaminants regulated under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

Has anyone ever become sick by drinking groundwater that has been contaminated by animal manure?

Yes. The most recent event happened in New York State where two people died and hundreds became ill when a well at a fairgrounds was contaminated by a nearby animal yard.

Are all public water supply wells sensitive to contamination?

No. Some aquifers are protected by layers of clay or other fine grained materials and are not sensitive to contamination from land uses.

How do I know where vulnerable public water supply wells are located?

The Minnesota Department of Health has prepared maps showing the locations of vulnerable community water supply wells. Copies of these maps are available through your county feedlot officer and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Who determines which wells are vulnerable?

The Minnesota Department of Health does this as the lead agency for administering Minnesota's Wellhead Protection Program.

What happens if I want to construct or expand a feedlot in the wellhead protection area of a vulnerable public water supply well?

If the feedlot has 500 or more animal units, you will have to prepare an Environmental Assessment Worksheet, and performance standards may be added to the feedlot permit. If the feedlot has fewer than 500 animal units, performance standards may be added to your permit.

Who can help me with my feedlot application?

Contact your county feedlot officer or the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Let them know where the feedlot is located and the fields where you plan to apply manure. This information will be compared to the locations of vulnerable public water supply wells and wellhead protection areas. The Minnesota Department of Health will also assist counties and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency with determining whether a vulnerable community water supply well may be impacted.

Who can I contact for more information?

Art Persons at (507) 292-5138
East Metro and Southeastern Minnesota

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| • Anoka | • Goodhue | • Rice |
| • Chisago | • Houston | • Scott |
| • Dakota | • LeSueur | • Steele |
| • Dodge | • Mower | • Wabasha |
| • Fillmore | • Olmsted | • Washington |
| • Freeborn | • Ramsey | • Winona |

Terry Bovee at (507) 389-6597
West Metro, Southwestern, and South Central Minnesota

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|-----------------|-------------|------------|
| • Blue Earth | • Lincoln | • Redwood |
| • Brown | • Lyon | • Renville |
| • Carver | • Martin | • Rock |
| • Cottonwood | • McLeod | • Sibley |
| • Faribault | • Murray | • Waseca |
| • Hennepin | • Nicollet | • Watonwan |
| • Jackson | • Nobles | • Yellow |
| • Lac Qui Parle | • Pipestone | • Medicine |

Mike Howe at (320) 255-4216
Central Minnesota

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| • Aitkin | • Kanabec | • Pope |
| • Benton | • Kandiyohi | • Sherburne |
| • Big Stone | • Meeker | • Stearns |
| • Chippewa | • Mille Lacs | • Stevens |
| • Clay | • Morrison | • Swift |
| • Douglas | • Norman | • Traverse |
| • Grant | • Otter Tail | • Wilkin |
| • Isanti | • Pine | • Wright |

Beth Kluthe at (218) 755-4173
Northern Minnesota

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| • Becker | • Itasca | • Polk |
| • Beltrami | • Kittson | • Red Lake |
| • Carlton | • Koochiching | • Roseau |
| • Cass | • Lake | • St. Louis |
| • Clearwater | • Lake of the Woods | • Todd |
| • Cook | • Mahnomen | • Wadena |
| • Crow Wing | • Marshall | |
| • Hubbard | • Pennington | |