



# Houston County Feedlot Newsletter

~Winter 2026 ~

## Planning & Zoning, Environmental Services

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**County Website:**  
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**MPCA Website:**  
<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/feedlots>

**State Duty Officer**  
(651) 649-5451  
(800) 422-0798

Paid for by a grant from the State of  
Minnesota.

## Houston County Feedlot Workshop

**When: Wednesday March 4, 2026. 10:30 am-3:00 pm**

**Where: Good Times, Caledonia**

Presentations from the: **MPCA, MDA, MN BAH, and RR SWCD**

*Lunch will be provided, see enclosed workshop letter for more info.*

### **Manure Runoff Reductions Decrease Runoff and Soil Erosion on your Farm**

1: When you land apply manure to your fields it is proven to improve soil properties and crop production through the presence of organic matter and vital nutrients.

- Increased Infiltration
- Improved Aggregation
- Increased Bulk Density

By incorporating manure into the soil, you will greatly reduce manure runoff volume and soil loss compared to when manure is not incorporated into the soil.

2: How to combat different types of erosion.

- Sheet Erosion – keep soils covered through no till or cover crops
- Rill Erosion –no till or cover crops and contour farming
- Gully Erosion- maintaining permanent vegetation with dense root systems & grassed waterways are essential

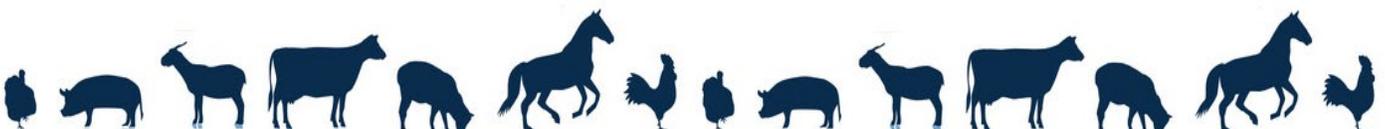
3: Utilize the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) RUNOFF RISK ADVISORY FORECAST tool. This tool was created to assist farmers, and commercial applicators determine the best and worst time to land apply manure.

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/protecting/cleanwaterfund/toolstechnology/runoffrisk>

This tool looks at several factors to provide the user with the runoff risk (no runoff expected, low, moderate, and severe) over the upcoming days.

- Soil Moisture Content
- Forecasted Precipitation & Temperatures
- Snow Accumulation and Melt

-Applicators should not apply manure when the runoff risk is moderate or severe.



## Manure Land Application Record

### Keeping Requirements

Under 100 au: Exempt from keeping records

100-299 au: Required to keep records

Over 300 au: Required to keep records (Any producer registered for over 300 animal units is required to have a Manure Management plan on hand).

### Odor Regulations:

Livestock operators that are emptying liquid manure storage areas and are land applying the manure are exempt from H<sub>2</sub>S standards for 21 days during a calendar year. Notify your County Feedlot Officer when you will be hauling and land applying your LMSA to get put on the Odor Exemption List.

*“Rumors and manure both get spread around but only one is beneficial”*

-Ed Furgol



## Tips for Land Application on Frozen and Snow Covered Ground

1. Apply to fields that have little to no slope, have crop residue and are distant from sensitive features.

2. Maintain adequate distance from sensitive features. When incorporation cannot take place because of winter condition be sure to observe increased setbacks.

*\*Remember that if incorporation is not possible or runoff risks are high, a 300 foot buffer is required to sinkholes and all surface water such as streams, drainage ditches, and open tile intakes.*

3. Reduce application rates.

Do not apply within 48 hours of a predicted large rain or snowmelt event.

Try to avoid hauling when runoff risks are high. Use the MDA's *Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast Tool*, for a real-time indication of runoff risk, precipitation forecast and soil temperatures.

Try only to spread what you need to in order to provide storage for the winter

**In addition, please be respectful of public roads. Keep them clean!**

## Emergency Response

Should a spill occur, take immediate action to reduce environmental impact: construct dirt berms, temporarily plug culverts/drain tile, call septic pumper, use hay, straw, corn stalks or wood chips to soak up the liquid.

Please keep in mind that if at any time you have a manure spill you must contact the State Duty Officer (800) 422-0798. In addition, notify our office and leave a message if after hours and I will follow up as soon as possible. Just a reminder that you also are required to notify the CFO if your manure basin has less than 12" of freeboard.

## Do you know what information is required for land application records?

- Field acreage and location
- Amount of manure applied
- Dates of manure application and incorporation
- Amounts of plant available nitrogen from manure and commercial fertilizer
- Manure nutrient test results (manure from all storage areas holding more than 100 animal units must be tested for Nitrogen and Phosphorus at least every 4 years)

-Houston County has scales and can calibrate manure spreaders for producers. Contact the Feedlot Officer if you are interested.

More information on these topics and more can be found on the MPCA website.

[www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us)

[www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/feedlots](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/feedlots)