



# Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request



**Requested Meeting Date:** April 8, 2025

**Title of Item:** Request Public Hearing for Proposed Feedlot

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	<b>Action Requested:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*
<b>Submitted by:</b> Andrew Carlstrom		<b>Department:</b> Planning & Zoning
<b>Presenter (Name and Title):</b> Andrew Carlstrom, Environmental Services Director		<b>Estimated Time Needed:</b> 5 minutes
<b>Summary of Issue:</b>  In an effort to meet public notice requirements and give additional proper notification, we are requesting a second Public Hearing for 10AM on May 13, 2025 for the proposed creation of a feedlot greater than 300 animal units in size. We currently have a request in for a MPCA Feedlot Manager to be in attendance at the Public Hearing and for additional questions the public may have.  Aitkin County has not accepted delegation of the Minnesota feedlot permit program, and in accordance with MN Statute 116.07 Subd.7(m) is required to hold a public hearing on feedlot proposals of 300 or more animal units. Please see attached memorandum and informational enclosures.		
<b>Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:</b> N/A		
<b>Recommended Action/Motion:</b> Request a Public Hearing for May 13, 2025 at 10AM.		
<b>Financial Impact:</b> <i>Is there a cost associated with this request?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$</i> <i>Is this budgeted?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i>		

**Aitkin County Environmental Services Planning and Zoning**  
**307 Second Street NW**  
**Room 219**  
**Aitkin, MN 56431**  
Phone: 218-927-7342  
Fax: 218-927-4372



**MEMORANDUM TO AITKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

DATE: April 8, 2025

FROM: Andrew Carlstrom, Environmental Services Director – Planning & Zoning Administrator

RE: **Future proposed feedlot of greater than 300 animal units**

At this time, in order to ensure all public notice requirements are met and to allow for all proper notification with sufficient detail, we are requesting the County Board to rescind their support of Resolution 20250311-032 (Aitkin County's Support for 300 or more Animal Unit Feedlot) until all additional public comments are received. At this time we are requesting a Public Hearing to be set for May 13, 2025 at 10AM.

Currently, Aitkin County does not regulate nor has accepted delegation of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's feedlot permit program. Mr. Ken Sizemore, who owns and operates Angie's Meats, is proposing to construct a feedlot at 28096 480<sup>th</sup> Street, Palisade, MN 56469. The feedlot is proposed to be greater than 300 animal units, but less than 500 in size.

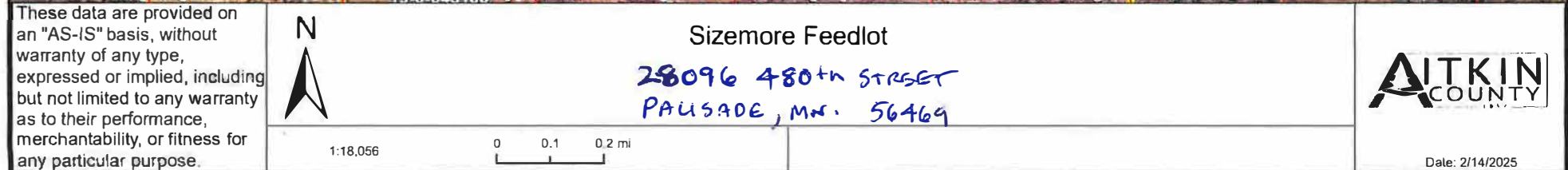
According to MN Statute 116.07 Subd.7 (m.) it says:

*"After January 1, 2001, a county that has not accepted delegation of the feedlot permit program must hold a public meeting prior to the agency (MPCA) issuing a feedlot permit for a feedlot facility with 300 or more animal units, unless another public meeting has been held with regard to the feedlot facility to be permitted."*

Aitkin County does not require feedlots in "Open" zoning to apply for a conditional use permit. If approved by the Aitkin County Board, the applicant will work with a representative from the MPCA Feedlot Program throughout the permitting process, as well as to ensure the health and safety of the environment for the proposed project. Please see additional enclosures.

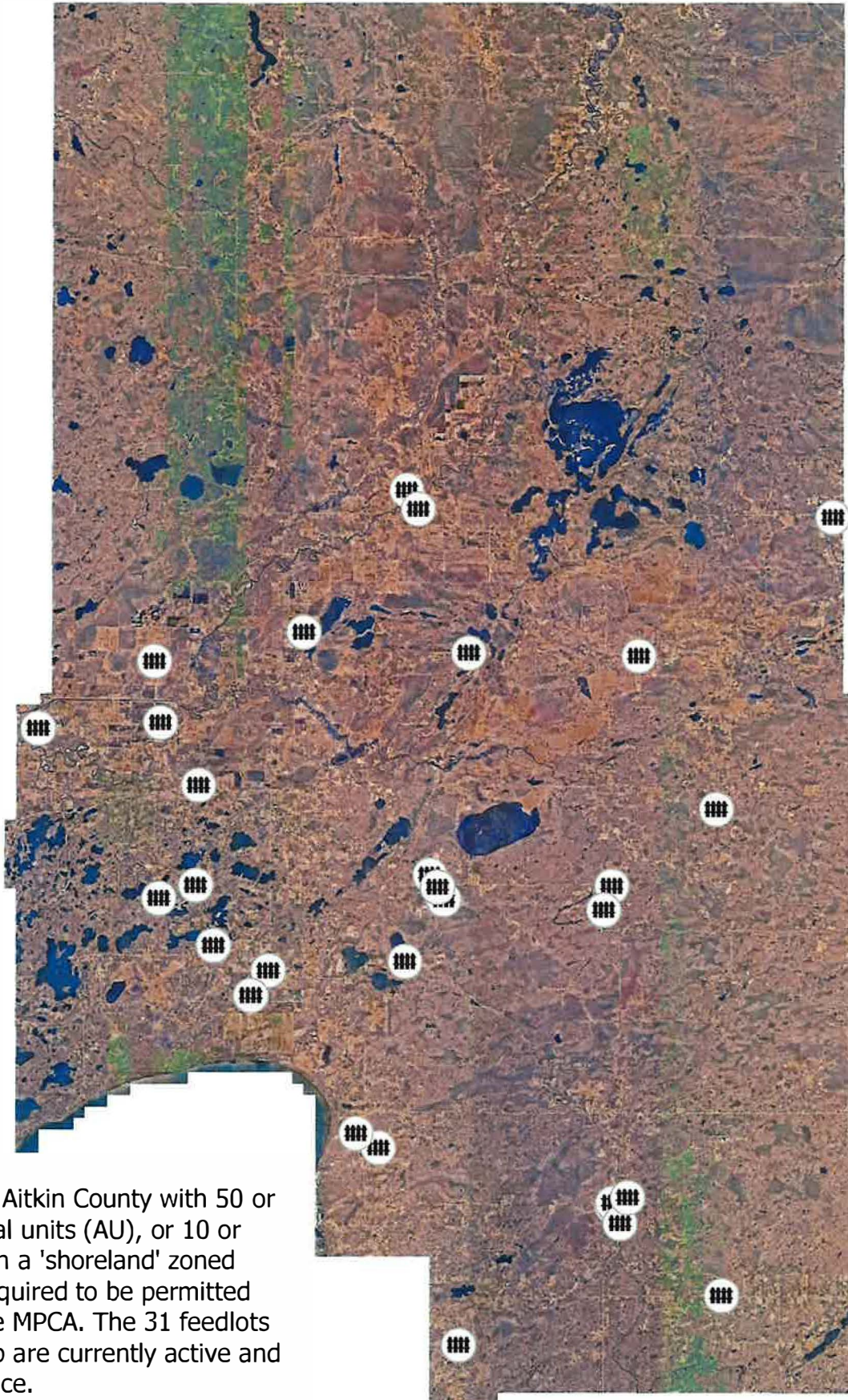
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 218-927-7342 or by email at [andrew.carlstrom@co.aitkin.mn.us](mailto:andrew.carlstrom@co.aitkin.mn.us).







# Active Feedlots in Aitkin County



Feedlots in Aitkin County with 50 or more animal units (AU), or 10 or more AUs in a 'shoreland' zoned area are required to be permitted through the MPCA. The 31 feedlots on this map are currently active and in compliance.

## Active Aitkin County Feedlots

FID	Area	Owner	Address	Au Count
0	Aitkin	Kevin Hoge	32413 280th Place	72.45
2	Aitkin	BRANDON ROBERTS	41469 Osprey Avenue	404
4	Aitkin	Terry Paulson	39714 391st Ln	217.5
5	Aitkin	Timothy E Hanson	28209 Dam Lake St	21
10	Aitkin	Robert J Nelson	31446 Oak Ave	20
11	Aitkin	Roger A Hanson	27591 Dam Lake St	0
13	Aitkin	Ronald Dotzler	38814 455th Pl	120
16	Aitkin	Lila Flowers	28319 350th Ave	77
17	Aitkin	Gene Davies	36361 380th Ave	32.2
19	Aitkin	Nordland Cattle & Timber Co	37489 295th St	285
23	Aitkin	Angie's Acres LLC	43052 Nature Ave	400
26	Aitkin	William Sexten	38019 Deer St	46.66
27	Aitkin	Joe Croatt	29271 288th Ln	1.7
28	Aitkin	David Rogers	27246 360th Ave	30.9
14	Finlayson	Boyd Mensing	15538 State Highway 18	21.365
3	Isle	Larry Templin	12152 270th Ave	202
8	Isle	Geoffrey Springer	30355 202nd Lane	4.8
9	Isle	Larry Templin	12152 270th Ave	78
21	Isle	Robert Roseberg	31201 210th Ln	135
25	Mc Grath	Gregory Zimpel	18254 State Highway 65	66.036
6	McGrath	Chris Moser	17191 State Highway 65	196
7	McGrath	Chris Moser	17191 State Highway 65	343
22	McGrath	Chris Moser	17191 State Highway 65	353.5
1	McGregor	Matt Wayrynen	31936 State Highway 65	153
12	McGregor	Lucas Hauser	26089 420th Ln	46.8
18	McGregor	Hedy Hietalati	35427 Kestrel Ave	0
24	McGregor	Laurence Koehler	30787 State Highway 65	30
30	McGregor	Brent C Amundson	41823 185th pl	50.4
20	Palisade	Brandon Kullhem	49890 Great River Rd	26.1
29	Palisade	Marilyn Ruud	42926 330th Ave	48
15	Tamarack	Diamond Willow Dairy	47675 100th Ave	89



# Soil Map—Aitkin County, Minnesota



## Map Unit Legend

\* NOT RETURNING SOILS

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres In AOI	Percent of AOI
124	Brickton silt loam	151.6	55.7%
133B	Dalbo very fine sandy loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes	51.2	18.8%
672	Willossippi loam	39.2	14.4%
1878	Hamre muck	19.3	7.1%
B39A	Meehan loamy sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes	4.3	1.6%
B108A	Cathro muck, occasionally ponded, 0 to 1 percent slopes	6.8	2.5%
Totals for Area of Interest		272.3	100.0%

*Hydric soil rating:* Yes

**Minor Components**

**Dalbo**

*Percent of map unit:* 8 percent

*Hydric soil rating:* No

**Hassman**

*Percent of map unit:* 3 percent

*Landform:* Depressions

*Hydric soil rating:* Yes

**Sandy substratum**

*Percent of map unit:* 2 percent

*Landform:* Flats

*Hydric soil rating:* Yes

**Hamre**

*Percent of map unit:* 2 percent

*Landform:* Depressions

*Hydric soil rating:* Yes

**Data Source Information**

Soil Survey Area: Aitkin County, Minnesota

Survey Area Data: Version 25, Sep 7, 2024



*Other vegetative classification:* Sloping Upland, Neutral  
(G088XN002MN)  
*Hydric soil rating:* No

#### **Minor Components**

##### **Brickton**

*Percent of map unit:* 5 percent  
*Landform:* Flats  
*Hydric soil rating:* Yes

##### **Well drained soils**

*Percent of map unit:* 2 percent  
*Hydric soil rating:* No

##### **Sandy substratum**

*Percent of map unit:* 1 percent  
*Hydric soil rating:* No

##### **Cathro**

*Percent of map unit:* 1 percent  
*Landform:* Bogs  
*Hydric soil rating:* Yes

##### **Hassman**

*Percent of map unit:* 1 percent  
*Landform:* Depressions  
*Hydric soil rating:* Yes

## **Data Source Information**

Soil Survey Area: Aitkin County, Minnesota  
Survey Area Data: Version 25, Sep 7, 2024

# Livestock and the environment

## MPCA Feedlot Program overview

In Minnesota there are an estimated 18,000 livestock feedlots registered under the state's feedlot rule. They range in size from small farms to large-scale commercial livestock operations. Agriculture including livestock comprises a major portion of the state's economy. Many organizations and programs work with livestock producers to ensure that Minnesota continues to have a healthy livestock industry and a healthy natural environment.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) regulates the collection, transportation, storage, processing and disposal of animal manure and other livestock operation wastes. The MPCA Feedlot Program implements rules governing these activities, and provides assistance to counties and the livestock industry. The feedlot rules apply to most aspects of livestock management including the location, design, construction, operation and management of feedlots and manure handling facilities.



The MPCA feedlot staff are located in six offices: Brainerd, Detroit Lakes, Mankato, Marshall, Rochester, and St. Paul. They work in the areas of land application of manure, permitting, data management, technical assistance, and compliance with feedlot rules. On the web: [www.pca.state.mn.us/water/feedlots](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/feedlots).

## Protect water

There are two primary concerns about feedlots in protecting water in our agricultural areas:

- Ensuring that manure on a feedlot or manure storage area does not run into water;
- Ensuring that nutrient-rich manure is applied to cropland at a rate, time and method that prevents nutrients and other possible contaminants from entering streams, lakes and ground water.

The MPCA works with farmers to make sure their feedlots are environmentally safe. Staff provides technical assistance to farmers, and conducts inspections at feedlots to be certain they comply with environmental requirements. Some of those requirements for feedlots include:

- Construction specifications for manure storage areas;
- Manure management plans for medium and large-sized feedlots; and
- Land application of manure on fields.

## Feedlot rule

Feedlot rules have been in effect in Minnesota since the early 1970s. In October 2000 a major revision of the feedlot rule (Minn. R. ch. 7020) went into effect, followed by an update in 2014. The main goals are:

- Register all feedlots capable of holding 50 or more animal units (AU-see page 4), or 10 or more animal units within shoreland areas;
- Focus on animal feedlots and manure storage areas that have the greatest potential for environmental impact;
- Support the role of delegated counties in the feedlot program; and
- Maintain agency and delegated-county staff field presence.



The feedlot rule does not specifically regulate pasture operations; however, they still must abide by Minnesota Rules chapter 7050 prohibiting pollution of state waters.

## Delegated county program

In 50 counties (current as of January 2021) the feedlot program is conducted through a cooperative arrangement between the MPCA and county government. County feedlot programs have responsibility for implementing state feedlot regulations for facilities with fewer than 1,000 animal units (AU) that are not subject to state or federal operating permit requirements. These responsibilities include: registration, permitting, inspections, education and assistance, and complaint follow-up. Current map of delegated counties: [www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-f1-12.pdf](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-f1-12.pdf)

Delegated counties receive state grants to help fund their programs. Funds are awarded based on the number of feedlots in the county with more than 50 AU (10 or more AU in shoreland) and the level of inspections completed. In recent years annual grants statewide have totaled nearly \$2 million. Delegated counties work together through the Minnesota Association of County Feedlot Officers: [www.pca.state.mn.us/water/minnesota-association-county-feedlot-officers](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/minnesota-association-county-feedlot-officers)



## Feedlot permits

Most smaller-sized feedlots are not required to have permits. Most large feedlots operate with state and federal permits. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and the State Disposal System (SDS) permit require specific conditions to comply with state law and the federal Clean Water Act. Of the approximately 1,200 feedlots operating with an NPDES or SDS permit, most have a general permit; about 50 have individual permits. A general permit is a single document that can apply to all livestock facilities whose operations are similar. The MPCA or delegated counties also issue permits for feedlot construction, and interim permits allowing feedlots with pollution problems to operate in a two-year period during which the problems are corrected.

## Nutrient and manure management

Livestock manure is a valuable resource if managed properly. It has been estimated that the amount of manure generated by livestock in Minnesota would be equivalent to that of a human population of about 50 million. Land application removes livestock manure from feedlots and provides fertilizer for crops. There are many ways to ensure that land-applied manure does not run off into waters, and is not over-applied beyond crop nutrient needs. Manure management plans are required when producers need to apply for a feedlot permit, or when a facility has 300 or more AU and does not use a licensed commercial applicator. Manure management plans help ensure that application rates do not exceed crop nutrient needs, and that setbacks from waters and drain tile intakes are observed.



## Environmental assessment at large feedlots

An environmental assessment looks at how a proposed feedlot project will affect the air, water and land, and at ways to mitigate any problems so that the project can go forward and be environmentally safe. Environmental Assessment Worksheets (EAWs) are mandatory for proposed feedlots over 1,000 AU, or over 500 AU in a sensitive area. More information is available on the Environmental Quality Board Web site:

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

## Pasture

Pastures are a common type of livestock operation. Typical examples include beef grazing and cow/calf operations. A pasture operation is not required to have a feedlot permit. Distinguishing pastures from feedlots is not always easy. Some operations include both pasture and feedlot components. An area of an operation with accumulated manure and a lack of vegetative cover beyond the immediate vicinity of supplemental feeding or watering devices, working areas, or access lanes, will not be considered to be pasture.

Winter feeding areas are exempt from feedlot rules, but they must be part of a larger grazing area where grass or other growing plants are used for grazing. Even if an operation is not required to get a permit because it is considered to be pasture, that operation is not allowed to discharge to waters of the state. For example, a pasture with a flow of manure-contaminated runoff from a supplemental feeding or watering area to a stream will be required to terminate the discharge. Seasonal or crop residue grazing may also be considered pasture. However, if the concentration of animals is such that unvegetated “feedlot” conditions develop and adequate forage is not available for livestock, requiring regular feed to be provided, the MPCA will require a feedlot permit for animals confined on cropland.



## Air quality

As some livestock operations have grown larger and more people are living near livestock farms, odor (particularly hydrogen sulfide) has become an issue. There are regulations for hydrogen sulfide, which can be toxic at high levels. The MPCA does not regulate odor in general; however some local units of government may have restrictions related to odor.

The MPCA does regulate hydrogen sulfide emissions and requires the following:

- Requiring odor management plans to be included in the permits of large feedlots; and
- Monitoring hydrogen sulfide emissions at feedlots where there have been odor complaints.

## Training and technical assistance

The MPCA provides training opportunities and assistance to counties and livestock producers. County feedlot officers receive inspection and permitting training, covering all aspects of the program. MPCA technical staff conduct workshops and presentations for county staff and producer groups.





## Contacts

Contact information for feedlot program staff is available at [www.pca.state.mn.us/water/mpca-feedlot-staff-contacts](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/mpca-feedlot-staff-contacts), or by calling the MPCA at 651-296-6300, or 800-657-3864.

## For more information

Producer organizations also provide environmental management information to their members. The following Web sites are good information sources for feedlots and manure management:

- Manure and Odor Education Research – University of Minnesota Extension: [extension.umn.edu/livestock-operations/manure-management](http://extension.umn.edu/livestock-operations/manure-management).
- Minnesota Department of Agriculture: [www.mda.state.mn.us/siting-livestock-farms-minnesota](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/siting-livestock-farms-minnesota).
- National Agriculture Compliance Assistance Center: [www.epa.gov/oecaagct/anafocom.html](http://www.epa.gov/oecaagct/anafocom.html).

## Animal units

Minnesota uses animal units to quantify the size of livestock feedlots. One animal unit is equivalent to the amount of manure produced by a 1,000-lb. steer. Following is a list of animal unit factors for several livestock types. The number livestock times the animal unit factor gives the number of animal units.

Mature dairy cow over 1,000 lbs.....	1.4	AU
Cow/calf pair .....	1.2	"
Stock cow/steer .....	1.0	"
Horse .....	1.0	"
Dairy heifer .....	0.7	"
Swine 55-300 lbs.....	0.3	"
Sheep .....	0.1	"
Broiler (over 5 lbs., dry manure) .....	0.005	"
Turkey over 5 lbs. ....	0.018	"
(Example: 3,334 market hogs = 1,000 AU)		

