

DESCRIPTION

The State of Minnesota defines feedlots as lots or buildings intended for the confined holding of animals, including areas with concentrations of animals so dense that vegetation will not grow. The State of Minnesota, through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), regulates feedlots; Mille Lacs County regulates agricultural animals through the Development Ordinance.

CAN I HAVE AGRICULTURAL ANIMALS ON MY PROPERTY?

The Mille Lacs County Development Ordinance allows for agricultural animals in the following zoning districts: Agricultural, Conservation Agriculture, Agricultural Residential, and Shoreland Special Protection.

HOW MANY ANIMALS CAN I HAVE ON MY PROPERTY?

For sites less than ten acres, a maximum of one animal unit per acre is allowed. An animal unit is calculated by dividing the average animal weight by 1,000 pounds as defined in Minnesota State Rules Chapter 7020.

Some examples of common agricultural animals and their animal units are listed in the table to the right:

Animal Type	Animal Units
Dairy Cow, > 1,000 lbs	1.4
Dairy Cow, < 1,000 lbs	1
Heifer/Feeder Cow	0.7
Beef Slaughter/Stock Cow	1
Beef Cow/Calf Pair	1.2
Swine, > 300 lbs	0.4
Swine, 55 to 300 lbs	0.3
Horses	1
Sheep	0.1
Chicken, < 5 lbs with dry manure	0.005

DO I NEED TO REGISTER MY FEEDLOT?

Minnesota State Rules Chapter 7020 requires feedlots of a certain size to be registered. Feedlots located in shoreland districts with 10 animal units or more, or feedlots located outside of shoreland districts with 50 animal units or more, are required to be registered.

Feedlots in Mille Lacs County meeting these criteria must register through the MPCA. The MPCA contact for Mille Lacs County can be found on the [MPCA's website](#).

WHAT ARE THE SETBACKS TO A FEEDLOT?

Setbacks to feedlots in Mille Lacs County are separated into four tiers, based on the number of animal units on the feedlot. These setbacks can be found in Table 504.3 of the [Development Ordinance](#). Setbacks do not apply to feedlots with fewer than 10 animal units.

WHAT ABOUT MANURE STOCKPILING?

Stockpiling of manure is a common method of solid manure storage. Manure storage, stockpiling limitations, and setbacks are regulated by the MPCA and Minnesota State Rules Chapter 7020. For more information, please refer to the MPCA's [guidelines for manure stockpiling](#).

DO FEEDLOTS NEED TO BE ENCLOSED?

Parcels containing more than five animal units of swine or poultry are required to provide enclosed quarters, appropriate for agricultural use, with a fenced yard. These enclosed quarters shall be set back at least 50 feet from the property line.