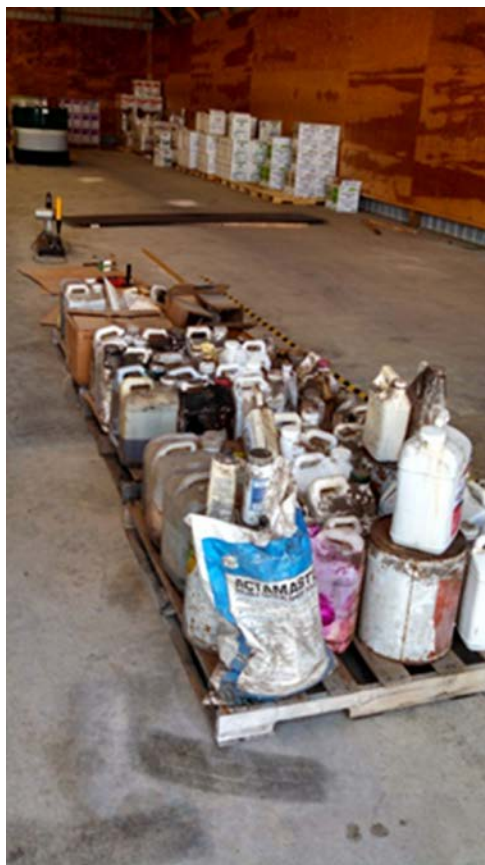


2017

Waste Pesticide Collection Program

Legislative Report



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Cover photo: Waste Pesticide awaiting sorting at a Minnesota agricultural chemical dealership.

Executive Summary

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) created a Waste Pesticide Collection (WPC) program in 1990. The program initially focused on providing disposal opportunities for farmers who stored unwanted and unusable pesticides in barns and sheds. During the first 10 years the program operated, hundreds of tons of farm waste was collected for proper disposal. Subsequently there was a noticeable decline in the amount of farm waste pesticide collected indicating that less waste pesticides were being stored in barns, sheds, and on farms than when the program began.

As farm waste totals declined, the WPC program began collecting much more nonagricultural waste pesticide generated from households. Eventually, the MDA entered into formal cooperative agreements with county-run household hazardous waste (HHW) facilities to capture more waste pesticides at local facilities. As part of those agreements, county cooperators choose to collect household waste pesticides, farm waste pesticides, or both.

The partnerships between the MDA and county cooperators have been a very effective tool for waste pesticide collection. Recent county cooperator collections have yielded an average of more than **500,000 pounds** of waste pesticide annually. The annual total is comprised of approximately 440,000 pounds of household waste pesticide and 60,000 pounds of farm waste pesticide. All 87 Minnesota counties are covered by cooperative agreements for the collection of household waste pesticide; 73 counties collect both household and farm waste pesticides.

The effectiveness of these partnerships yielded high volumes resulting in increased disposal cost for waste pesticide which then exceeded the revenue from the waste pesticide surcharge specifically established for these cooperative agreement activities. In response to the high collection totals from household pesticides, the surcharge on household pesticides registered was increased in 2017. The program collection costs are projected to be adequately funded from surcharge revenue.

**In this report, 'farm' waste pesticides refers to any waste pesticide held by commercial, noncommercial, licensed or unlicensed pesticide users other than household products.*

Background

Pesticides are a widely used and important tool in farm crop production. Pesticides are also used in greenhouses, nurseries, golf courses, and commercial lawn care and are commonly used in homes and gardens. By their nature, pesticides are hazardous substances and their use is highly regulated. If not handled properly, including proper disposal of unused product, pesticides can pose health and environmental risks.

The WPC program provides opportunities to safely dispose of unwanted or unusable pesticides. Since 1990, seven and a half (7.5) million pounds of farm and household waste pesticide have been collected.

For many years, the MDA organized collection events throughout the state that focused on collecting agricultural waste pesticides. As the farm waste totals began to decline, the MDA began partnering with county household hazardous waste facilities to collect other types of pesticides. Today, the MDA has entered into cooperative agreements with counties for the local collection of household and agricultural waste pesticides.

Cooperative agreement activities are funded by a product surcharge placed on pesticides registered and sold in Minnesota. Under the cooperative agreement, the MDA reimburses county partners for costs incurred for waste pesticide collection and for reasonable overhead costs. The MDA sponsors collection events in areas that are not covered by a cooperative agreement at least every other year.

The collection program is different today than when it began in 1990. The MDA estimates that more than 75 percent of all waste pesticide collected comes from households. Farm waste pesticide yields are estimated at approximately 60,000 pounds annually.

Legislative

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute, Chapter 18B.065, Sub. 3(b) (2016), by March 15th, the MDA must report annually on WPC progress and pesticide collection totals. Statutory reporting requirements include:

1. Each instance of a refusal to collect waste pesticide or the assessment of a fee to a pesticide end user;
2. Waste pesticide collection information including a discussion of the type and quantity of waste pesticide collected by the commissioner and any entity collecting waste pesticide under “cooperative agreements” with the state during the previous calendar year;
3. A summary of waste pesticide collection trends; and
4. Any corresponding program recommendations.

Collection entities are required to record the amount of agricultural or business waste pesticide used, shipped, or disposed of and submit the record to the MDA. Waste pesticide shipped and not on the form is assumed to be household. The MDA receives a record every time a shipment is made that contains ag waste pesticide. Such data enables the MDA to monitor the collection waste stream and identify collection trends.

There were no instances of a cooperator or the MDA refusing to accept waste pesticide for disposal. MN Rule 1509.0030 and MN Statute 18B.065 allow this program to assess costs for packing, transportation and disposal of waste pesticides in excess of 300 pounds. Four companies were charged a fee for volumes over 300 pounds. The total payments of \$1,215 helped cover disposal costs.

Program Milestones

Table 1. Program milestones.

Year	Milestone
1989	Survey shows three (3) million pounds of waste pesticides are stored on farms in the state.
1990	First waste pesticide collections occur in Minnesota.
1990-2002	Collection of farm waste pesticide averages 150,000 lbs. per year.
1996	The MDA reaches out to counties and establishes informal collection partnerships.
1999	Per-pound household collections outnumber farm waste pesticide collection totals for the first time in program history.
2000	Largest single year collection total = 225,000 pounds/farm waste; 180,000 pounds/household waste.
2008/2009	Waste Pesticide Task Force proposals and legislated program changes take effect.
2009	\$50-per-product Waste Pesticide Surcharge (\$50) established to cover cooperative agreement costs.
2009	The MDA is required to collect waste pesticide in all counties unless a county agreement to do so exists. Recordkeeping requirements are established.
2009	The MDA begins to pay county disposal and overhead costs for household/farm waste pesticide collection.
2013	Legislature suspends recordkeeping requirements for 2014-2015.
2013-2014	MMB-Management Analysis Development studies collection data (4 years) to identify trends and offer recommendations for future program strategies.
2014	A total of 86 (out of 87) Minnesota counties sign cooperative agreements to collect household waste; 51 counties agree to collect farm waste.
2015	Legislature approves programmatic changes including changes to record keeping requirements that promote program efficiencies.
2016	All 87 Minnesota counties agree to collect household waste pesticides and all but 14 agree to collect farm waste pesticide by cooperative agreement. Program expenses continue to exceed surcharge revenue.
2017	Surcharge is increased (to \$125) on household pesticides registered in state to cover rising volumes of household waste pesticides.

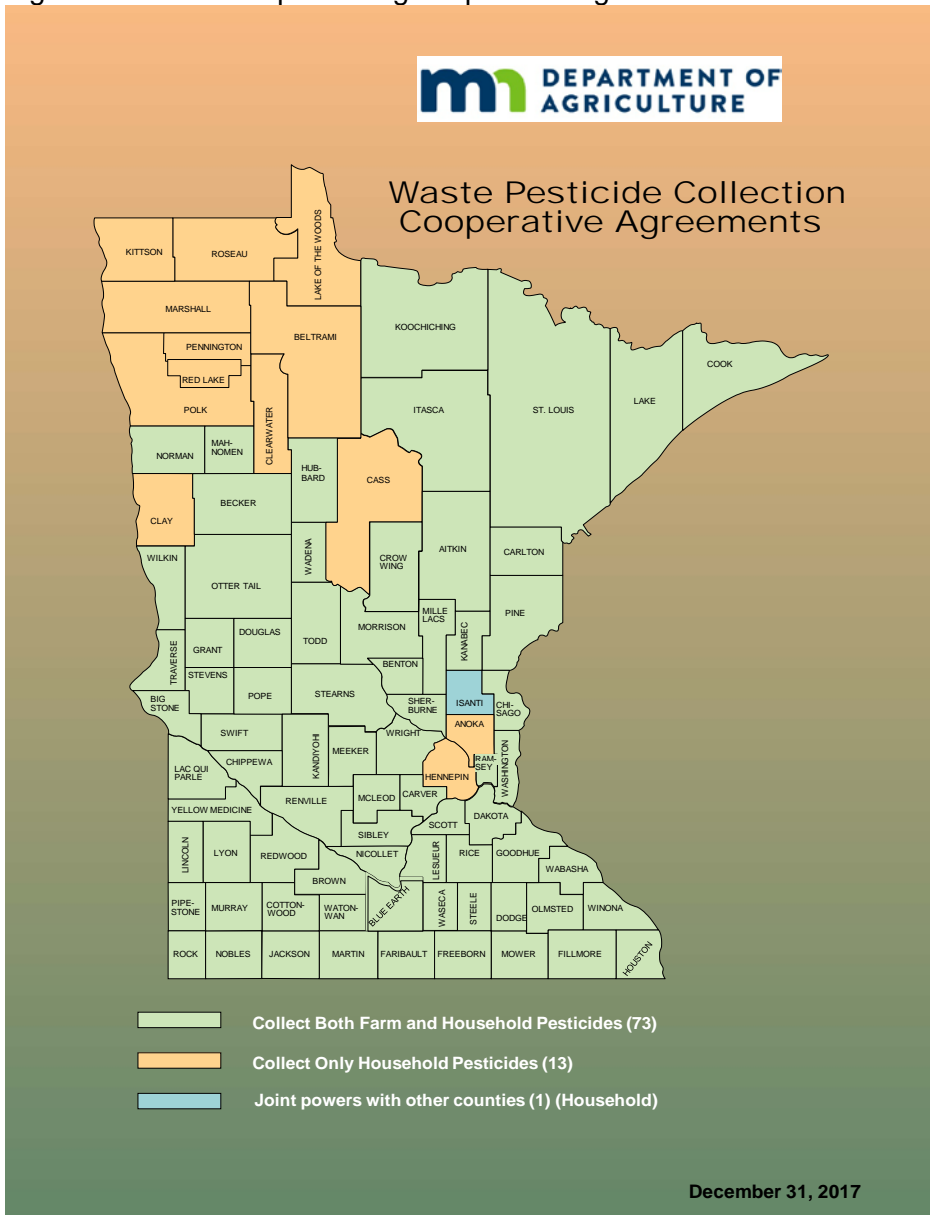
Collaboration

The MDA continues to have cooperative agreements that cover 87 Minnesota counties. Of those, 73 counties collect both household and farm waste pesticide and 14 counties collect household waste pesticide only. During the 2017 calendar year no new cooperative agreements were signed.

Table 2. Counties that collect household/farm or household only.

Type of Waste Pesticide Collected	Household and farm waste pesticides	Only household waste pesticides
Number of Counties	73	14

Figure 1. A state map showing cooperative agreements.

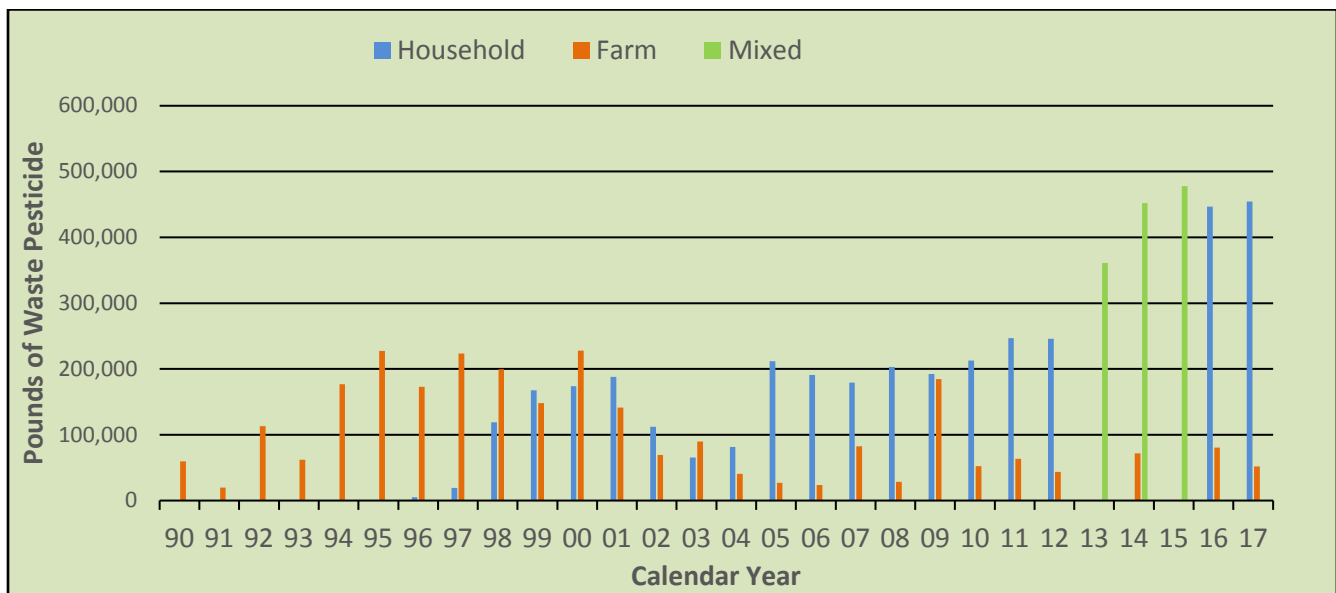


2017 Collection Totals & Trends

County collections netted more than 500,000 pounds of household and agricultural waste pesticides in 2017. The MDA sponsors events in areas where cooperative agreements do not exist; however, pursuant to statute, these collections occur every other year. The MDA stand-alone events will occur again in the summer of 2018.

The MDA continues to encourage counties to sign on as cooperators. These collections offer the greatest efficiencies and greatest convenience. The MDA continues to promote cooperative agreements to collect farm waste pesticide in all counties in order to maximize the effect of program dollars, and we expect more counties will sign such agreements. The MDA is prepared for the likely increase in volume should this happen.

Figure 2. Yearly pounds of waste pesticide collected from 1990 to 2017.



Legislature suspended recordkeeping requirements for 2013-2015 (calendar year). 2014 MDA held farm waste pesticide collection events

Table 3. Cumulative cooperative agreement and MDA total collected pounds of all waste pesticides.

Calendar Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
MDA Event Pounds	316	71,884	0	20,261	0
Cooperative Agreement Pounds	360,738	452,025	477,804	505,894	500,770
Total Pounds	361,054	523,909	477,804	526,155	500,770

Table 5. Cooperative agreements totals and costs by county for 2017.

Region/County Program	Members of Region	Net Ag Pounds Waste Pesticide Collected	Net Household Pounds Waste Pesticide Collected	Reasonable Overhead Costs Paid
Becker	Becker, Norman, Hubbard, Mahnomen	0	3,701	\$925.25
Blue Earth	Blue Earth, Watonwan	2,265	4,961	\$1806.50
Brown	Brown	0	2,369	\$592.25
Chisago	Chisago, Isanti	1,274	4,977	\$1,562.75
Clay	Clay	0	1,520	\$380.00
Crow Wing	Crow Wing	608	1,843	\$612.75
Freeborn	Freeborn	1,985	1,256	\$810.25
Houston	Houston	686	110	\$199.75
Kanabec	Kanabec	0	263	\$65.75
Kandiyohi	Kandiyohi, Meeker, Renville, Chippewa, Swift, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle	3,543	4,586	\$2,032.25
Lyon	Lyon, Lincoln, Redwood, Murray, Rock, Cottonwood, Nobles, Pipestone, Jackson, Yellow Medicine	7,758	7,139	\$3,724.25
McLeod	McLeod	0	5,805	\$1,451.25
Morrison	Morrison	601	704	\$326.25
Mower	Mower	355	677	\$258.00
NWMNHHW	Kittson, Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Cass, Beltrami, Marshall, Red Lake, Polk, Clearwater, Pennington	4,028	2,926	\$1,738.50
Olmsted	Olmsted, Goodhue, Wabasha, Dodge	5,759	5,949	\$2,927.00
Otter Tail	Otter Tail, Grant, Stevens, Traverse, Wilkin, Wadena	1,562	4,788	\$1,587.50
Pine	Pine	1,081	1,434	\$628.75
Pope/Douglas	Pope, Douglas	2,407	3,209	\$1,404.00

Region/County Program	Members of Region	Net Ag Pounds Waste Pesticide Collected	Net Household Pounds Waste Pesticide Collected	Reasonable Overhead Costs Paid
PrairieLand	Martin Faribault	1,897	802	\$674.75
Rice	Rice, Steele, Waseca	1,499	6,523	\$2,005.50
Sherburne	Sherburne	93	3,548	\$910.25
Stearns	Stearns, Benton, Sherburne	6,052	23,553	\$7,064.00
Tricounty South	Sibley, Nicollet, Le Sueur	7,427	2,222	\$2,412.25
Winona	Winona, Fillmore, Houston	433	5,867	\$1,575.00
Todd	Todd	0	760	\$190.00
WLSSD	St. Louis, Koochiching, Itasca, Aitkin, Carlton Lake, Cook	395	22,485	\$5,720.00
Wright	Wright	0	6,065	\$1516.25
Anoka	Anoka	0	35,058	\$8,764.50
Carver	Carver	435	23,314	\$5,937.25
Dakota	Dakota	1,016	19,159	\$5,042.75
Hennepin	Hennepin	0	111,058	\$27,934.00
Ramsey	Ramsey	990	52,609	\$13,316.00
Scott	Scott	542	14,218	\$3,690.00
Washington	Washington	0	59,916	\$14,985.50
Total		54,356	446,414	\$125,192.50

Outreach

The MDA provides guidance for cooperating counties to clarify collection recording and reporting in order to ensure that the waste stream will be properly characterized. Staff that service arriving waste are encouraged to view the MDA's YouTube video that was produced at a household hazardous waste facility and can be found on the web at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RWshVQumx4>

The MDA continues to encourage cooperators to be vigilant about monitoring materials delivered to collection sites to ensure only eligible waste pesticide are collected for disposal. Products such as fertilizers, crop oils, drift retardants, and rinsates are not waste pesticides and are not eligible for

collection. The program was not intended to collect these materials and cooperators must turn such products away.

The MDA has sought to enlist more counties in cooperative agreements to collect farm waste pesticides. Some are concerned that farm waste pesticides would overwhelm their collection program due to space limitations at collection facilities. The MDA notified counties that, pursuant to MN Rule 1509.0030 and MN Statute 18B.065, fees are allowed to be assessed to pesticide end users for disposing of waste pesticides over 300 pounds. This would be effective, in some cases, in reducing the overall volume of large deliveries and also, if the charge is acceptable by the pesticide end user, helps offset cost to the MDA for disposal. An MDA form was developed for invoicing the pesticide end users for the costs of disposal.

Program Recommendations

The MDA Waste Pesticide Collection program has removed over seven million pounds of dangerous waste pesticide from Minnesota's landscape. This is a unique program designed to protect and preserve Minnesota's environment. Strong partnerships with county household hazardous waste collection operations have been key to increasing program efficiency and effectiveness.

The MDA makes these recommendations for future program success:

1. Explore other strategies to encourage remaining counties not collecting agricultural or business waste pesticides to enter into a partnership with the MDA.
2. Continue to seek cost saving measures through our county partners to improve efficiency in program operations.
3. Provide partners support and address issues that will enhance the partnership experience.
4. Discuss with county cooperators waste reduction strategies useable on household clients.
5. Ensure the program targets eligible waste.