

Animal Feedlots Rulemaking

Scope Announcement

January 2026

MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

Feedlot rulemaking recap

Learn more

www.pca.state.mn.us/get-engaged/animal-feedlots

Why rulemaking has started

- Livestock production and agricultural practices have changed in 25 years
  - New information, research, and understanding regarding agriculture and the environment
  - Changes in crop production and nutrient management practices
  - Changes in livestock and poultry production techniques and practices
  - Evolution of regulatory strategies and technologies





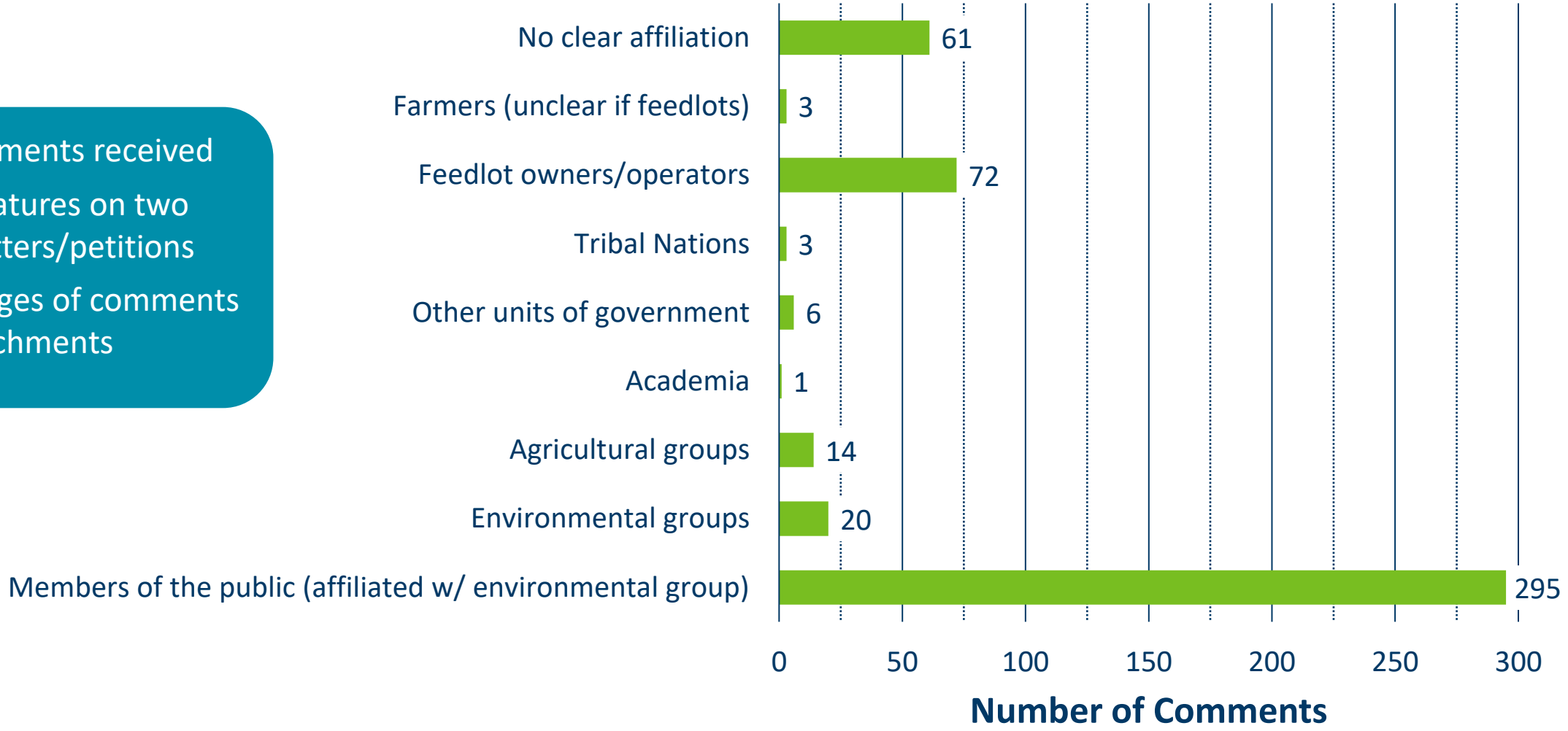
Rule process overview



Comments received

- 475 comments received
- 688 signatures on two group letters/petitions
- 7,495 pages of comments and attachments

Who Submitted Comments



RFC comment summary

- Every area of focus had comments that supported different/increased regulation as well as comments that supported no changes
- Some broad common ground ideas/comments
  - Base rules on science and keep them easy to understand/enforce
  - Land app. regulations tailored to areas of the state/regional conditions
  - Promotion of BMPs for land application practices



All comments, attachments, and a summary document are available on the Feedlot rulemaking website

www.pca.state.mn.us/get-engaged/animal-feedlots

Request for comments is complete

What happens now?

Draft rule and SONAR development (2026-TBD)

Multi-step process over several years

1. Decide rulemaking scope
   - RFC comments used to guide scope

We are here – Announcing the rulemaking scope

2. Organize teams
   - Internal MPCA feedlot program team
   - Technical and owner workgroups
3. Develop rule concepts
   - Involve workgroups, feedlot owners, and County Feedlot Officers (CFO)
   - Consult stakeholders and Tribes
   - Decide concepts to advance to draft rules
4. Draft rule language and SONAR

Outreach and engagement will happen along the way as well

Rulemaking scope

- Scope establishes the boundaries of the rulemaking effort
  - The extent of relevant topics that will be reviewed during the rulemaking process to determine if changes to the feedlot rule are warranted
- RFC comments used to help guide scope decision
  - MPCA staff read and analyzed every RFC comment received
  - Not all topics from RFC comments are in scope
    - Consideration of current scope of 7020 and existing authorities, program resources, and research needs

In scope = review need for change
In scope ≠ changes will be made

Feedlot rulemaking scope

Land application of manure



Technical standards



Rule implementation



Reminder:
In scope means review the need for rule changes not that changes are guaranteed

Engagement spectrum

Tribes &
State agencies

Feedlot owners
(beyond workgroup)

Producer &
Environmental
groups

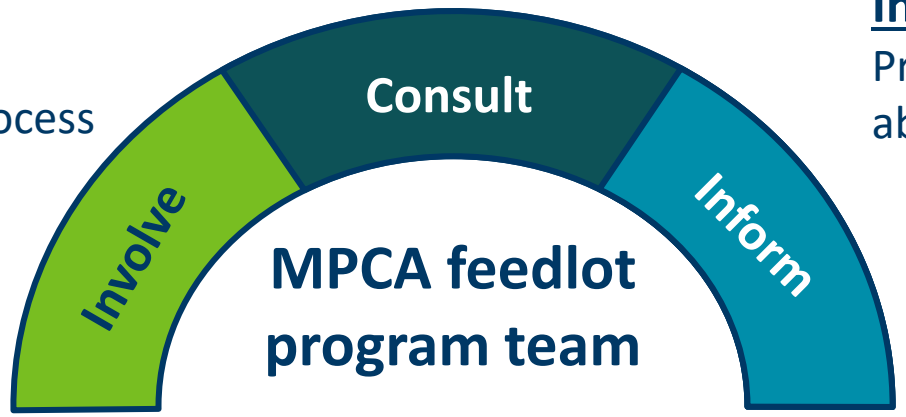
Feedlot
owner
workgroup

Consult
Obtain feedback on analysis, alternatives, and decisions

All
interested
parties

Technical
workgroups

Involve
Work directly with throughout the process



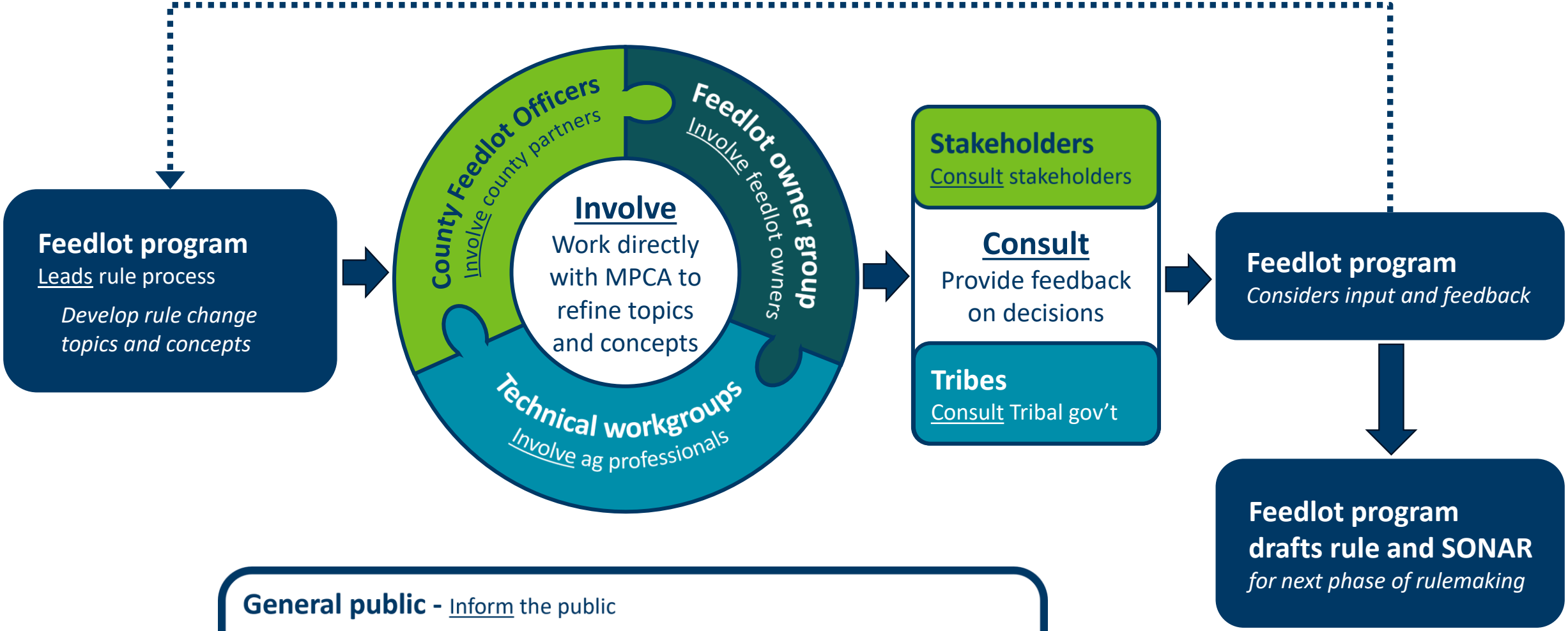
Inform
Provide objective information about the process and outcomes

County
Feedlot
Officers

General
public

Rule development process

Outreach and engagement



General public - Inform the public

MPCA provides updates on rulemaking progress at key points along the way

Technical workgroups

Technical workgroups work directly with the MPCA to refine rule topics and concepts

- Objective professionals in respective fields
  - Chosen by MPCA
- Need for two technical workgroups identified initially
  - More workgroups may be formed during the process

Note: Technical workgroups were previously termed technical advisory teams



Land application workgroup

Land application workgroup (8 – 10 members selected by the MPCA)

- **Involve** academia and qualified professionals to provide professional judgement on aspects related to land application of manure
  - Who: Agronomists, researchers, geologists, soil scientists
  - Sector: U of MN, NRCS, MDA, DNR, MDH

Involve:
Work directly with during the process

Consult:
Provide feedback on analysis and/or decisions

Inform:
Receive information about analysis and/or decisions

Standards workgroup

Standards workgroup (8 – 10 members selected by MPCA)

- **Involve** qualified professionals to provide professional judgment on aspects related to management and storage of manure, process wastewater, and feed
  - Who: Engineers, geologists, soils scientists, hydrologists
  - Sector: NRCS, U of MN, joint powers organizations, private consulting firms, other MPCA programs

Involve:
Work directly with during the process

Consult:
Provide feedback on analysis and/or decisions

Inform:
Receive information about analysis and/or decisions

Feedlot owner group

Feedlot owners/operators (10 – 12 members selected by MPCA)

- **Involve** feedlot owners and operators to provide feedback on cost of compliance and implementation feasibility of proposed concepts
  - Various facility sizes
  - Various livestock sectors
  - Various areas of the state

Involve:
Work directly with during the process

Consult:
Provide feedback on analysis and/or decisions

Inform:
Receive information about analysis and/or decisions

Other stakeholders

Stakeholders

- **Consult** stakeholders to provide feedback on concepts resulting from CFO, technical workgroups and feedlot owner involvement
  - Feedback provided via an online comment platform or similar method
- Stakeholders include anyone self-affiliated with the following groups:
  - Feedlot owner/operators (beyond those on the owner workgroup)
  - Producer groups
  - Environmental groups
  - State agencies

Involve:
Work directly with during the process

Consult:
Provide feedback on analysis and/or decisions

Inform:
Receive information about analysis and/or decisions

General public

All interested parties and the public

- **Inform** the public about the proposed rule change concepts and opportunities for participation later in the rulemaking process
  - Webinars, website updates, newsletter updates
  - No feedback or comments at this stage
    - Feedback/comments happen during the next stage – public hearing

Involve:
Work directly with during the process

Consult:
Provide feedback on analysis and/or decisions

Inform:
Receive information about analysis and/or decisions

Today’s take-home points

Feedlot rulemaking scope summary

Land application of manure

- Transferred manure requirements
- Nitrogen Best Management Practices
- Setbacks
- Manure Management Plan applicability
- Visual monitoring
- Recordkeeping requirements
- ~~Compliance monitoring~~
- Rate and location of land app of manure
- Manure sampling requirements
- Regional zone requirements

Technical standards

- Manure storage capacity
- Feed storage design and operation
- Existing Liquid Manure Storage Area (LMSA) integrity
- Ground water monitoring
- Livestock access to waters
- Locational restrictions in sensitive areas
- Manure storage area design standards

Rule implementation

- Permit and registration applicability
- Animal unit factors
- Clarity of definitions and requirements
- Legislative alignment
- Utilization of agency data services
- Delegated county program

Reminder:
In scope means review the need for rule changes, not that changes are guaranteed

What's next

Multi-step process over several years

1. Decide rulemaking scope
   - RFC comments used to guide scope

Complete – Scope announcement Jan 2026

2. Organize teams
   - Internal MPCA feedlot program team
   - Technical and owner workgroups

Next – MPCA starts to organize teams
(Estimated completion in spring 2026)

3. Develop rule concepts
   - Involve workgroups, feedlot owners, and CFOs
   - Consult stakeholders and Tribes
   - Decide concepts to advance to draft rules
4. Draft rule language and SONAR

It may be a while before some of you hear more from the MPCA

Rule process recap



Thank you

Need more info?

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