



2020 Waste Pesticide Collection Program Legislative Report



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Cover photo: Waste Pesticide ready to offload from a pickup truck at a Minnesota agricultural chemical dealership.

Executive Summary

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Waste Pesticide Program (WPC) enters into formal cooperative agreements with county-run Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facilities to capture waste pesticides at local facilities. As part of these agreements, county cooperators choose to collect household waste pesticides, agricultural waste pesticides, or both.

The partnerships between the MDA and county cooperators are an effective tool for waste pesticide collection. Over the past couple of years, the effectiveness of these partnerships yielded high volumes resulting in increased disposal cost for waste pesticides. As a result, the increased costs 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 pesticide state registration was increased in 2017. The program collection costs are projected to be adequately funded from surcharge revenue.

The 2020 annual total for collections is 601,468 pounds. Cooperators collected 597,804 pounds and the MDA's collection events totaled 3664 pounds. This is a decrease of 16,880 pounds collected in 2019. All 87 Minnesota counties are covered by cooperative agreements for the collection of household waste pesticides; 73 counties collect both household and agricultural waste pesticides. In 2020, more than 98 percent of all waste pesticides collected came from households.

In this report, agricultural waste pesticides refer to any waste pesticide held by growers/farmers, commercial, noncommercial, licensed or unlicensed pesticide users other than household products.

Background

Pesticides are widely used and are an important tool in production agriculture. 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 the program was created in 1990, more than nine million pounds of agricultural and household waste pesticides have been collected. In the early years of the program, the MDA organized collection events throughout the state that focused on collecting unwanted and unusable agricultural waste pesticides stored on farms. As the agricultural waste totals began to decline, the MDA started partnering with county household hazardous waste facilities to collect other types of pesticides. Today, the MDA enters 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 reasonable overhead costs. The MDA sponsors collection events every other year in areas that are not covered by a cooperative agreement.

Legislative

By March 15 each year, the MDA must report (Minnesota Statute, Chapter 18B.065, Sub. 3(b) (2016) 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.

In 2020, there were no instances of any cooperator refusing to accept waste pesticides 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. The MDA may charge participants a portion of the disposal for those having more than 300 pounds as allowed by MN Rule 1509.0030. In 2020, no pesticide end users were charged for disposal of waste pesticide volumes in excess of 300 pounds.

The cost of disposal is assessed per rule at the following rates:

- 300 - 1,000 pounds of waste = \$1 per pound fee
- 1,001 - 2,200 pounds of waste = \$3 per pound fee
- Cooperating collection entities are required per statute to record the amount of agricultural waste pesticides offered for disposal and submit the record to the MDA. Waste pesticides shipped and not on the form is assumed to be household. The MDA receives a record of the weight of agricultural waste pesticides collected and shipped. The data enables the MDA to monitor the collection waste stream and identify collection trends.

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 agricultural waste pesticide averages 150,000 pounds per year.
1996	The MDA reaches out to counties and establishes informal collection partnerships.
1999	Per-pound household collections outnumber agricultural waste pesticide collection totals for the first time in program history.
2000	Largest single year collection total = 225,000 pounds of agricultural waste pesticides; 180,000 pounds/ household waste pesticides.
2008/2009	Waste Pesticide Task Force proposals and legislated program changes take effect.
2009	\$50 per product Waste Pesticide Surcharge established to cover cooperative agreement costs.
2009	The MDA is required to collect waste pesticides 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/agricultural waste pesticide collection.
2013	Legislature suspends recordkeeping requirements for 2014-2015.
2013-2014	MMB-Management Analysis Development studies collection data (four 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 pesticide; 51 counties agree to collect agricultural waste pesticides.
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 agricultural waste pesticide by cooperative agreement. Program expenses continue to exceed surcharge revenue.
2017	Surcharge is increased to \$125 on household waste pesticides registered in state to cover rising volumes of these pesticides.

Collaboration

The MDA continues to maintain cooperative agreements in Minnesota’s 87 counties. Of those, 73 counties collect both household and agricultural waste pesticides and 14 counties collect only household waste pesticides. During the 2019 calendar year, no new cooperative agreements were signed.

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

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



Figure 1. A state map showing cooperative agreements

2020 Collection Totals & Trends

County and MDA collections netted 601,468 pounds of household and agricultural waste pesticides in 2020. The MDA sponsors events in areas where cooperative agreements do not exist; pursuant to statute, these collections occur every other year. The MDA sponsored two collection events in Brooklyn Park, MN in 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the MDA collections in NW MN were suspended until 2021.

The MDA continues to encourage counties to sign on as cooperators. These collections offer the greatest efficiencies and convenience. The MDA promotes cooperative agreements to collect agricultural waste pesticides in all counties to maximize the effect of program dollars.

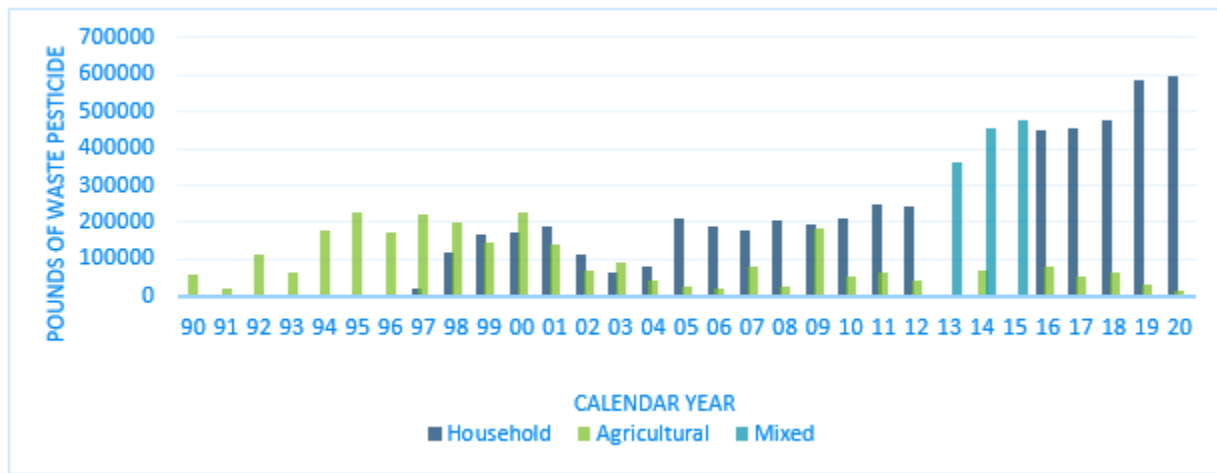


Figure 2. Yearly pounds of waste pesticides collected from 1990 to 2020

The Minnesota Legislature suspended recordkeeping requirements for 2013-2015 (calendar year). In 2014, 2016, and 2018, the MDA held agricultural waste pesticide collection events in non-partnering areas, and this information is included in this graph.

Calendar Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
MDA Event Pounds	71,884	0	20,261	0	19,869	0	3664
Cooperative Agreement Pounds	452,025	477,804	505,894	500,770	523,992	618,348	597,804
Total Pounds	523,909	477,804	526,155	500,770	543,861	618,348	601,468

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

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, Mahnommen	0	4578	\$1,144.50
Blue Earth	Blue Earth, Watonwan	0	8,310	\$2,077.50
Brown	Brown	0	3,275	\$818.75
Chisago	Chisago, Isanti	2,302	6,282	\$2,146.00
Clay	Clay	0	2,862	\$715.50
Crow Wing	Crow Wing	0	4,782	\$1,195.50
Houston	Houston	0	643	\$160.75
Kanabec	Kanabec	0	307	\$76.75
Kandiyohi	Kandiyohi, Meeker, Renville, Chippewa, Swift, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle	0	5,704	\$1,426.00
Lyon	Lyon, Lincoln, Redwood, Murray, Rock, Cottonwood, Nobles, Pipestone, Jackson, Yellow Medicine	0	15,700	\$3,925.00
McLeod	McLeod	0	8,153	\$2,038.25
Morrison	Morrison	0	388	\$97.00
Mower	Mower, Freeborn	0	2,132	\$533.00
NWMNHHW	Kittson, Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Cass, Beltrami, Marshall, Red Lake, Polk, Clearwater, Pennington	0	13,385	\$3,346.25
Olmsted	Olmsted, Goodhue, Wabasha, Dodge	1,191	12,339	\$3,382.50
Otter Tail	Otter Tail, Grant, Stevens, Traverse, Wilkin, Wadena	0	15,006	\$3,751.50
Pine	Pine	0	1,388	\$347.00
Prairieland	Martin Faribault	0	1,617	\$404.25
Rice	Rice, Steele, Waseca	0	5,659	\$1,414.75

Region/County Program	Members of Region	Net Ag Pounds Waste Pesticide Collected	Net Household Pounds Waste Pesticide Collected	Reasonable Overhead Costs Paid
Sherburne	Sherburne	0	3,467	\$866.75
Stearns	Stearns, Benton, Pope, Douglas	4,341	33,376	\$9,429.25
Todd	Todd	0	600	\$150.00
Tri-county South	Sibley, Nicollet, Le Sueur	0	3,461	\$865.25
Winona	Winona, Fillmore, Houston	0	4,438	\$1,109.50
WLSSD	St. Louis, Koochiching, Itasca, Aitkin, Carlton Lake, Cook	1,847	29,257	\$7,776.00
Wright	Wright	0	6,277	\$1,569.25
Anoka	Anoka	0	46,932	\$11,733.00
Carver	Carver	0	23,984	\$5,996.00
Dakota	Dakota	0	59,458	\$14,864.50
Hennepin	Hennepin	0	124,639	\$31,159.75
Ramsey	Ramsey	882	71,043	\$17,981.25
Scott	Scott	0	12,323	\$3,080.75
Washington	Washington	0	55,476	\$13,869.00

Table 4. Cooperative agreement total pounds and costs by county for 2020.

Outreach

A Waste Pesticide brochure with county cooperator contact information is available to pesticide end users and has been distributed to many pesticide applicators and growers.

The MDA provides written and video guidance for cooperating counties on how to properly record agricultural waste pesticide weights on MDA forms, and what types of wastes are accepted into the program. An MDA YouTube video is available for training purposes and can be viewed 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 pesticide rinsates are not waste pesticides and are not eligible for disposal through the MDA Waste Pesticide Collection program.

The MDA encourage counties in cooperative agreements to collect agricultural waste pesticides. Some counties are concerned that agricultural 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 can be assessed to pesticide end users for disposing of waste pesticides over 300 pounds.

This is effective, in some cases, in reducing the overall volume of large deliveries and, if the charge is acceptable by the pesticide end user, helps offset the cost to the MDA for disposal.

An MDA form was developed for invoicing the pesticide end user for the costs of disposal in excess of 300 pounds. The counties have been asked to contact the MDA when waste volumes exceed 300 pounds we can determine if available funds exist to provide for large disposal volumes to ensure on-going funding for the program.

Program Recommendations

The MDA Waste Pesticide Collection program has removed [over eight](#) million pounds of dangerous waste pesticides 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 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. Use the MDA Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division's newsletter to remind pesticide users to manage their rinsates and not bring them to facilities or collections for disposal.
4. Discuss with county cooperators waste reduction strategies for household clients.
5. Ensure the program targets eligible waste.