



2022 Waste Pesticide Collection Program

Legislative Report

March 15, 2023

Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Waste Pesticide Collection Program
625 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-201-6540
jane.boerboom@state.mn.us
www.mda.state.mn.us

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Waste pesticide ready to offload from a pickup truck at a Minnesota agricultural chemical dealership.

Contents

- 2022 Waste Pesticide Collection Program..... 1**
- Executive Summary.....4
- Background5
- Legislative.....5
- Program Milestones.....6
- Collaboration.....7
- 2022 Collection Totals & Trends8
- Outreach 11
- Program Recommendations 11

Executive Summary

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Waste Pesticide Collection (WPC) Program 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 several 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 2022 annual total for collections was 563,057 pounds. Cooperators collected 544,175 pounds and the MDA's collection events totaled 18,882 pounds. This is a decrease of 96,387 pounds collected in 2021. All 87 Minnesota counties are covered by cooperative agreements for the collection of household waste pesticides; 84 counties collect both household and agricultural waste pesticides. In 2022, more than 96% 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 Waste Pesticide Collection (WPC) Program provides opportunities to safely dispose of unwanted or unusable pesticides. Since the program was created in 1990, nearly 10.5 million pounds of agricultural and household waste pesticides have been collected. In the early years of the program, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (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 even-numbered year in areas that are not covered by a cooperative agreement.

Legislative

By March 15 of 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 2022, 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 2022, 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 are assumed to be household waste pesticides. 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 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	Minnesota Management & Budget-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.
2022	As of July 1, 2022: All 87 Minnesota counties agree to collect household waste pesticides and all but three agree to collect agricultural waste pesticide by cooperative agreement. Reimbursement rate to counties increases from \$0.25 to \$0.50 per pound.

Collaboration

Prior to July 1, 2022, 87 counties agreed to collect household waste pesticides and all but 14 agreed to collect agricultural waste pesticides. In 2022, 35 new cooperative agreements were signed covering all 87 Minnesota counties. The new agreements became effective as of July 1, 2022, and were historical in that all counties agreed to collect household waste pesticides and all but three counties agreed to collect agricultural waste pesticide. The three unsigned counties for agricultural waste pesticide collections are Hennepin, Anoka, and Clay counties.

The new agreements increased the reimbursement to counties from \$0.25 to \$0.50 per pound for waste pesticide collections.

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

Type of Waste Pesticide Collected	Household and agricultural waste pesticides	Only household waste pesticides
Before July 1, 2022 Number of Counties	73	14
After July 1, 2022 Number of Counties	84	3

2022 Collection Totals & Trends

County and MDA collections netted 563,057 pounds of household and agricultural waste pesticides in 2022. In 2022, the MDA sponsored waste pesticide collection events in northwest Minnesota and in counties that have since signed cooperative agreements to collect agricultural waste pesticides. The MDA agricultural waste pesticide collection events occurred in Hallock, Ulen, Oklee, Crookston, and Warren, MN. In October 2022, the MDA completed agricultural waste pesticide collection in Hennepin County. The total volume of waste pesticides collected from the 2022 events was 18,882 pounds.

The MDA continues to encourage counties to sign on as cooperators. County 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. As of July, 2022, the unsigned counties to collect agricultural waste pesticides are Anoka, Hennepin and Clay counties.

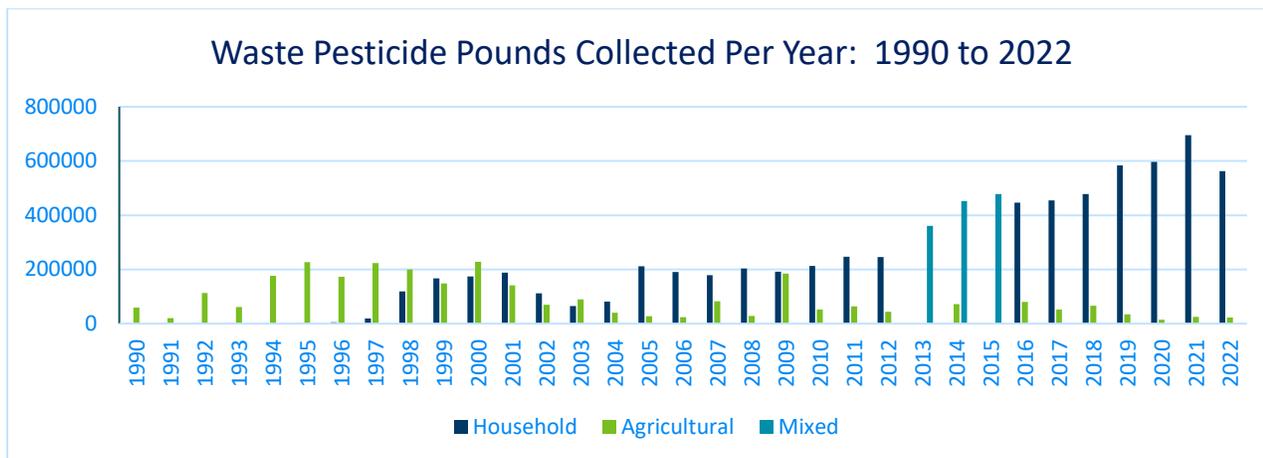


Figure 1. Yearly pounds of waste pesticides collected from 1990 to 2022

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.

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

Calendar Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
MDA Event Pounds	20,261	0	19,869	0	3,664	27,944	18,882
Cooperative Agreement Pounds	505,894	500,770	523,992	618,348	597,804	631,500	544,175
Total Pounds	526,155	500,770	543,861	618,348	601,468	659,444	563,057

Table 4. Cooperative agreement total pounds and costs by county for 2022.

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, Mahnomon	0	7,556	\$2,665.75
Blue Earth	Blue Earth, Watonwan	0	9,546	\$3,321.50
Brown	Brown	0	2,603	\$927.00
Chisago	Chisago, Isanti	678	5,396	\$2,480.00
Clay	Clay	0	2,244	\$920.50
Crow Wing	Crow Wing	0	6,441	\$2,555.00
Freeborn	Freeborn	1,262	1,016	\$1,139.00
Kanabec	Kanabec	0	2,595	\$1,297.50
Kandiyohi	Kandiyohi, Meeker, Renville, Chippewa, Swift, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle	0	4,806	\$1,715.00

Region/County Program	Members of Region	Net Ag Pounds Waste Pesticide Collected	Net Household Pounds Waste Pesticide Collected	Reasonable Overhead Costs Paid
Lyon	Lyon, Lincoln, Redwood, Murray, Rock, Cottonwood, Nobles, Pipestone, Jackson, Yellow Medicine	0	14,822	\$6,045.00
McLeod	McLeod	0	7,845	\$3,048.25
Morrison	Morrison	0	856	\$428.00
Mower	Mower, Freeborn	0	1,204	\$602.00
NWMNHHW	Kittson, Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Cass, Beltrami, Marshall, Red Lake, Polk, Clearwater, Pennington	0	7,372	\$3,319.25
Olmsted	Olmsted, Goodhue, Wabasha, Dodge	1,312	6,839	\$3,501.50
Pine	Pine	0	882	\$441.00
Pope-Douglas	Pope, Douglas	632	6,811	\$2,618.00
Prairieland	Martin, Faribault	1,603	836	\$1,219.50
Rice	Rice, Steele, Waseca	2,094	5,411	\$2,777.25
Sherburne	Sherburne	0	3,243	\$1,621.50
Stearns-TRI N	Stearns, Benton	1,345	26,103	\$13,612.71
Todd	Todd	0	1,355	\$677.50
Tri-county South	Sibley, Nicollet, Le Sueur	1,676	2,373	\$1,012.25
Winona	Winona, Fillmore, Houston	0	7,820	\$3,974.25
WLSSD	St. Louis, Koochiching, Itasca, Aitkin, Carlton Lake, Cook	457	26,213	\$11,783.78
Wright	Wright	0	8,681	\$3,777.25
Anoka	Anoka	0	42,688	\$16,667.75
Carver	Carver	996	35,434	\$14,833.00
Dakota	Dakota	1,260	40,881	\$16,867.50

Region/County Program	Members of Region	Net Ag Pounds Waste Pesticide Collected	Net Household Pounds Waste Pesticide Collected	Reasonable Overhead Costs Paid
Hennepin	Hennepin	0	104,060	\$41,067.50
Ramsey	Ramsey	0	58,905	\$22,926.25
Scott	Scott	0	10,046	\$3,609.00
Washington	Washington	0	67,977	\$26,665.25

Outreach

The MDA sent revised Cooperative Agreements to cooperators and provided MDA Waste Pesticide Collection Program information to those contacts. The information included allowable wastes, reimbursement increase amounts, and reimbursements schedules. The MDA Waste Program coordinator presented twice to state Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste officials at their biannual 2022 meetings. A Waste Pesticide flyer explaining what is accepted into the program is sent to new Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) managers and operators. A brochure with HHW county contacts and locations has been distributed at the Minnesota Crop Production Retailer (MCPR) annual convention, irrigator meetings, and pesticide applicator certification workshops.

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 waste 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 pesticides 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.

An MDA form developed for invoicing the pesticide end user for the costs of disposal in excess of 300 pounds was distributed to counties via email. The counties have been asked to contact the MDA when waste volumes exceed 300 pounds so 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 nearly 10.5 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. Continue to seek cost saving measures through our county partners to improve efficiency in program operations.
2. 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.
3. Discuss with county cooperators waste reduction strategies for household clients.
4. Ensure the program targets eligible waste.
5. Encourage unsigned counties to partner to collect agricultural waste pesticides.