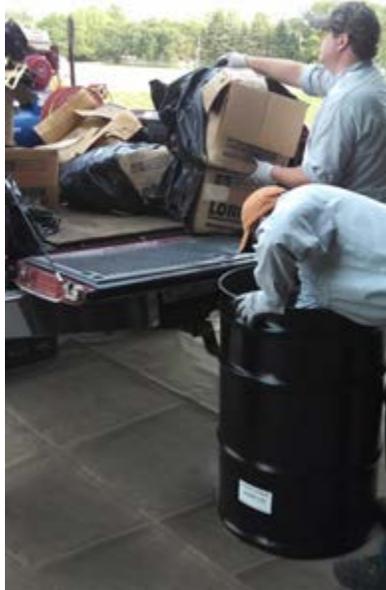




Waste Pesticide Collection Report



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On the cover: A Grant County farmer carefully delivers old pesticide to a Minnesota Department of Agriculture collection site located in Wendell, MN.

Executive Summary

The Waste Pesticide Collection program (WPC) was created 25 years ago because of the need to removed old, unwanted and unusable pesticides that were stored on farms around the state. Since the program was implemented in 1989, more than 5.8 million pounds of waste pesticide has been safely collected for proper disposal at a cost of more than \$14 million.

During the early years of the program, the majority of the waste stream consisted of farm waste pesticide. The amount of farm waste pesticide delivered to collection sites has declined; many aged pesticides have been removed and new waste is not being generated on farms primarily due to technological advances by registrants and applicators in the agricultural sector. The waste collection stream has shifted and is now dominated by household pesticides. Household waste totals exceed farm waste by four-fold on an annual base in Minnesota. The marketing of “pre-mixed pesticides” for lawn and garden application by homeowners, coupled with the efficiency of county-run collections, accounts for this dramatic increase in household waste volumes.

Several program changes were enacted in 2009 that originated with proposals from the Waste Pesticide Task Force. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) began entering into cooperative agreements with counties to collect waste pesticides locally. Counties that collected pesticides were required to record disposal waste and provide these records to the MDA.

Since 2009, cooperative agreement collection costs have been covered by the Waste Pesticide Surcharge revenues; prior to the implementation of the surcharge, WPC costs were paid from the Pesticide Regulatory Account. The Waste Pesticide Surcharge is a \$50 per-product annual assessment on all pesticides that establishes a dedicated fund to pay for collection, disposal and other costs associated with cooperative agreements. The MDA schedules collections for farm and household pesticides in counties where a cooperative agreement does not exist.

The MDA contracted the Minnesota Management & Budget (MMB) Management Analysis & Development (MAD) office to evaluate WPC program data from 2009 to 2012. MAD concluded that the current program funding mechanism is flexible and stable compared to other revenue generating options. The MAD report also states that a more focused data collection strategy would suffice to monitor collection trends and determine how well program goals are met.

The MDA performed a comparative analysis which shows that it costs less for a county to collect a pound of waste pesticide than it does for the MDA to collect the waste. County-administered waste pesticide collections produce robust results and substantial efficiencies because they are incorporated into other locally based collection activities. MDA-administered collections are high-cost less-efficient operations that often result in little or no waste collected.

Conclusion

The state benefits from the removal of waste pesticides that could potentially harm public health or contaminate our environment. The WPC program is among the most successful of its kind in the country and has resulted in the removal of large amounts of farm waste pesticide in Minnesota.

Progress has been achieved due to reduce waste pesticide stored on farms and generated by the agricultural sector compared to previous years. The transition to county-based sites has resulted in the

collection of large amounts of household waste pesticide. Collections operated from county sites offer more program efficiencies, local conveniences and cost savings.

The agency recognizes that these accomplishments would not be possible without MDA-county partnerships and looks forward to continued collaboration. The MDA will continue to examine program operations to seek cost efficiency. To better meet waste stream collection needs, the agency proposes the following priorities and strategies. The MDA will:

- Reach out to county partners to foster existing county relationships, evaluate programmatic changes and work to make unwanted pesticide disposal more efficient, simple and convenient.
- Propose statutory change that sets basic, limited and targeted record keeping guidelines; basic descriptive information about products taken at collection sites.
- Propose statutory change that allows for flexible collection scheduling by MDA in areas where no cooperative agreement exists to support great collection efficiencies.
- Establish new county agreements to collect both household and farm waste pesticide.
- Continue to examine sources and reasons for high amounts of household waste generated in specific areas.

Introduction

The MDA has managed the Waste Pesticide Collection Program (WPC) for 25 years. The program provides an environmentally sound option to dispose of unusable and unwanted pesticides from farms and households.

In 2013, the Minnesota legislature directed the Commissioner of Agriculture to analyze existing collection data to identify trends to inform future collection strategies and better meet the nature of current waste pesticide collection stream. The Commissioner was directed to report recommendations and proposed policy/program changes to legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over agricultural finance and policy. The legislature also postponed the recordkeeping requirement for pesticides collected between through 2015 (Ch. 114, Art. 2, Sec. 66 (2013)).

Sec. 66. WASTE PESTICIDE REPORTING; 2013, 2014, 2015.

Notwithstanding the recording and reporting requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section 18B.065, subdivision 2a, paragraph (d), persons are not required to record or report agricultural or nonagricultural waste pesticide collected after the effective date of this section in 2013, 2014, and 2015. The commissioner of agriculture shall analyze existing collection data to identify trends that will inform future collection strategies to better meet the needs and nature of current waste pesticide streams. By January 15, 2015, the commissioner shall report analysis, recommendations, and proposed policy changes to this program to legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over agriculture finance and policy.

Background

In 1989, the Waste Pesticide Collection (WPC) Program was created to address potential dangers of contamination and exposure associated with unused agricultural pesticides stored in the state. At that

time, it was estimated approximately three (3) million pounds of obsolete, damaged and unwanted agricultural pesticides could be found on Minnesota farms.

The initial program collection focus was farm waste pesticide. These products had been stored for years, sometimes decades, and were kept mostly in original, aging containers. Some of these outdated pesticide products were very hazardous, such as DDT, Dieldrin or 2, 4, 5-Trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2, 4, 5-T). Other products were widely marketed in ubiquitous 2.5 gallon containers and were not fully used or completely emptied. As collections continued over many years, the nature of the waste collection stream changed. Today collections capture more household waste than farm waste pesticide. During the past 25 years of this program, more than 5.8 million pounds of waste pesticide has been properly disposed of without incident or injury. This total includes about 2.5 million pounds of farm waste and 3.3 million pounds of household waste pesticide. The majority of waste collected is destroyed through high-temperature incineration. The timeline below highlights program milestones.

Program Timeline

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 pesticide waste averages 150,000 lbs. per year.
1996	The MDA reaches out to counties and establishes informal collection partnerships.
1999	Collected household total exceeds farm total in a single year for the first time.
2000	Largest annual collection totals: 225,000 lbs. farm; 180,000 lbs. of household waste.
2008/2009	Waste Pesticide Task Force proposals and legislated program changes take effect.
2009	Waste Pesticide Surcharge of \$50 per product established to pay for disposal and county overhead costs incurred in collecting waste pesticides under cooperative agreements.
2009	The MDA is required to collect waste pesticide in all counties unless a county agreement to do so exists and all collection entities must record collected waste.
2009	The MDA pays disposal plus reasonable overhead costs to counties that sign a cooperative agreement to collect household/farm waste pesticides.
2013	Recordkeeping is suspended and no information was recorded about the pesticides collected in 2013 and 2014 as a result.
2013-2014	MMB/Management Analysis Development (MAD) is contracted to analyze four (4) years of collection data to identify trends and inform future

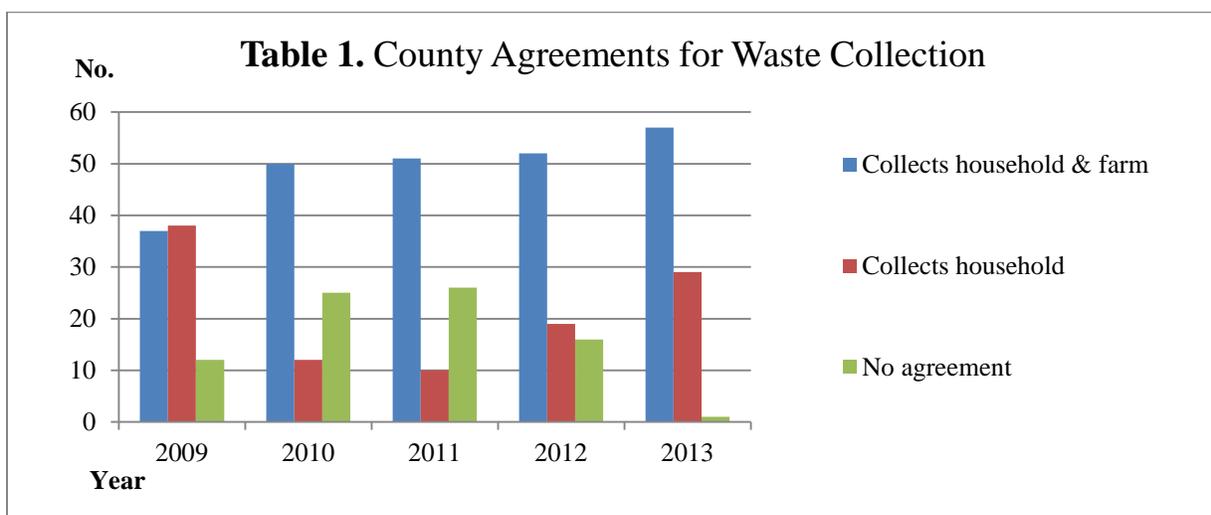
	collection strategies.
2014	86 counties sign cooperative agreements to collect household waste; 51 counties to collect farm waste.

Collection Operations

For the first decade of the program, the MDA scheduled regional collections focused on farm waste pesticide disposal. Temporary collection sites were set at suitable locations, usually cooperative agricultural chemical facilities, to mainly collect farm waste pesticides. Typically, these sites served three-to-five counties at a central drop-off location. This successful effort removed much of the farm pesticide waste in the state.

During the mid-1990s, when the amount of farm waste delivered to collection sites was in decline, the MDA reached out to county HHW programs to explore partnerships to collect household pesticides; most counties participated. Some counties agreed to collect household and agricultural waste pesticides; some agreed to collect only household pesticides; and other counties elected not to participate at all. Various changes to the program resulted in even more county participation, such as: increased compensation; revised contractual liability; and reduced recordkeeping burdens. In recent years, the majority of waste pesticide collected for disposal annually is delivered to a county household hazardous waste (HHW) facility that operates under cooperative agreements with the MDA.

The WPC changed in 2008 as a result of Waste Pesticide Task Force proposals and resulting legislation. The MDA began entering into county cooperative agreements to collect waste pesticides in 2008. By 2009, most counties signed up to collect household waste. Table 1 shows the current status of county agreements and the type of waste collected.



When an agreement is signed, the county decides to collect household pesticide, farm waste or both. The county agrees to use its facility and staff resources for collection purposes, although a county can establish local protocols to better manage or schedule waste delivery.

Any waste gathered at a collection site must be categorized and packaged in suitable shipping containers for out-of-state transport. Collected waste is either transported to high-temperature incinerators that burn hazardous waste or, depending on characteristics; the waste is taken to an authorized, permitted landfill.

Farm waste pesticides have significantly different characteristics than household waste pesticides. Generally, farm pesticides are sold as highly concentrated chemicals that will be mixed with a carrier prior to application. Household pesticides are often marketed as pre-mixed or ready-to-use, which means they mostly water. The WPC handles farm and household pesticide waste in the same manner. Household waste pesticides are not regulated as hazardous substances in the same manner as farm waste pesticides, and generally do not have the same public health or environmental concerns.

Collection and disposal of pesticide waste is expensive. Over the life of the WPC program, disposal costs ranged between \$1.00 per pound to more than \$5.00 per pound. Disposal or incineration cost is generally the largest single factor contributing to the disposal costs, although transportation, mobilization, worker pay, equipment and supplies are also factors. The per unit cost of these factors is lower as volume of waste collected increases.

The Waste Pesticide Surcharge was established to cover all disposal and related costs, such as transportation and packaging, for the waste collected under a cooperative agreement. Additionally, counties receive overhead costs based on \$0.25 per pound of waste, as well as reimbursement for approved costs to advertise collection events from the fund.

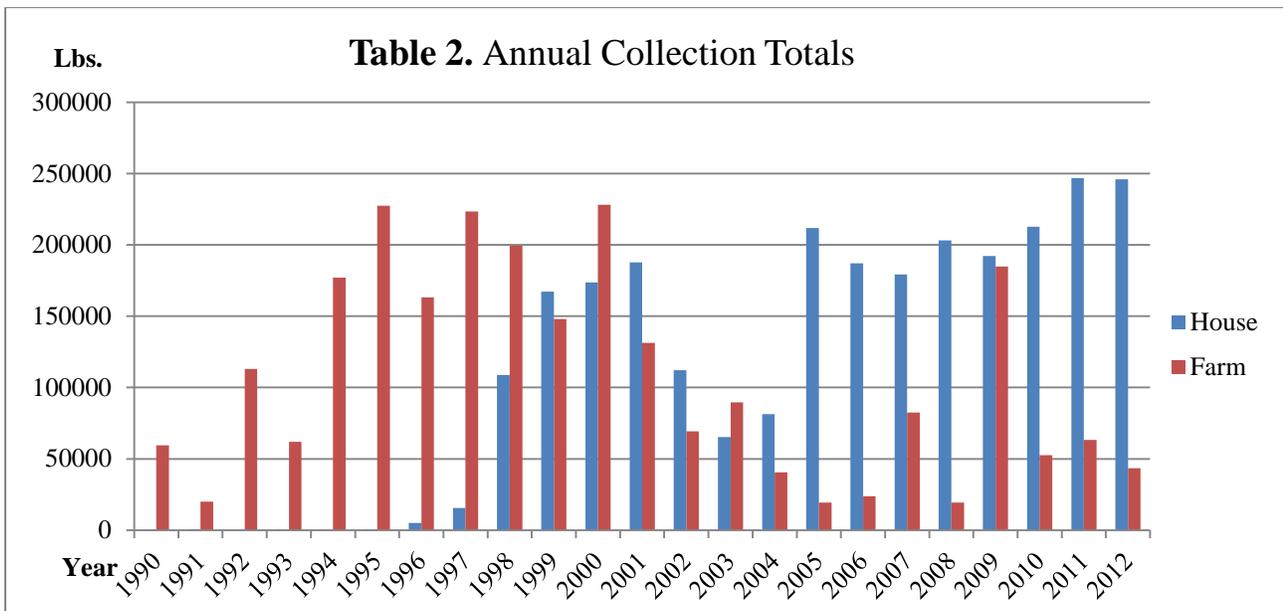
These partnerships enhance the WPC program ability to achieve goals, serve the public and remove more waste pesticides from the environment. Currently, 86 Minnesota counties signed a cooperative agreement to collect household waste; 51 counties agree to collect farm waste. The MDA anticipates that with less farm waste pesticide, and targeted program changes, even more counties will agree to accept farm waste at their HHW collection facilities.

Future strategies to better meet program goals include: continue to examine program operations to achieve efficiencies; foster county relationships to improve collection efforts and provide greater access to the public; initiate programmatic and process changes so that unwanted pesticide disposal is more efficient, simple and convenient; establish new county agreements to collect both household and farm waste pesticide.

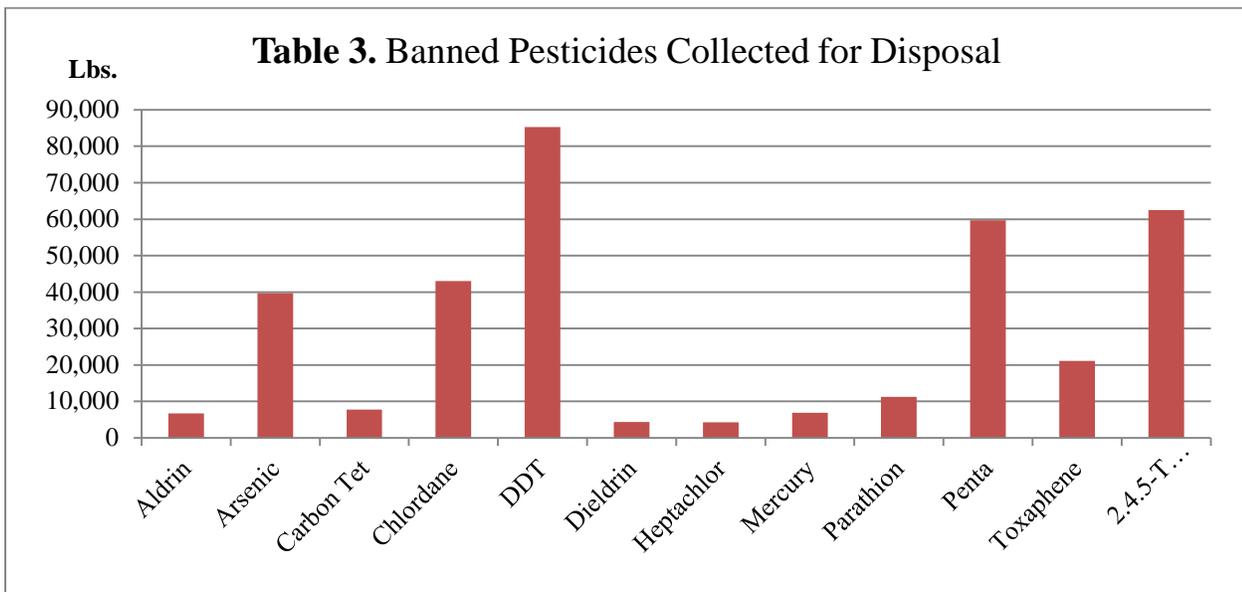
Waste Pesticide Collected

Millions of pounds of pesticides have been collected for safe disposal since MDA collection operations began in 1990. During the first decade of the program, the waste stream has consisted of old and new liquid and solid products, some of these products were highly toxic material.

Much of the farm pesticide collected was decades-old, and stored in original containers that were aging, deteriorating and in danger of leaking. Many participants held on to these pesticides waiting for the disposal opportunity provided by the WPC. After peaking in 2000, the collection of farm waste pesticide declined while household pesticide collection increased. Table 2 depicts annual totals of waste pesticide collected.



During the early years of the WPC program, large amounts of potentially dangerous products (2, 4, 5-T, Pentachlorophenol, DDT) and other obsolete or non-registered products were delivered to collection sites. More than 350,000 pounds of carcinogenic or environmentally harsh pesticides were collected (note: DDT registration was canceled by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the early 1970s). Table 3 shows aggregate totals of banned products that have been collected in Minnesota.



By 2000, composition of the waste collection stream shifted dramatically. Collected household pesticides now exceed farm waste by 400 percent. More than half of total amount of pesticides collected since the program began are household pesticides; this total continues to grow.

Currently, the WPC program objectives remain the same but collection results have changed. Overall, farm waste pesticide is down; amounts of canceled products are still delivered to collection sites. Farm practices have changed as farmers rely on improved precision application methods, ultra-low volume products, products in returnable containers and customized application services.

As more county cooperative agreements are signed, the volume of waste collected by counties increases proportionally. Today household pesticides comprise most of the collection totals; despite the fact that sales of farm pesticide are roughly three (3) times higher than household pesticide sales.

The MDA continues to assess the totals of household waste collected and examine sources and reasons for high amounts of household waste generated in specific areas.

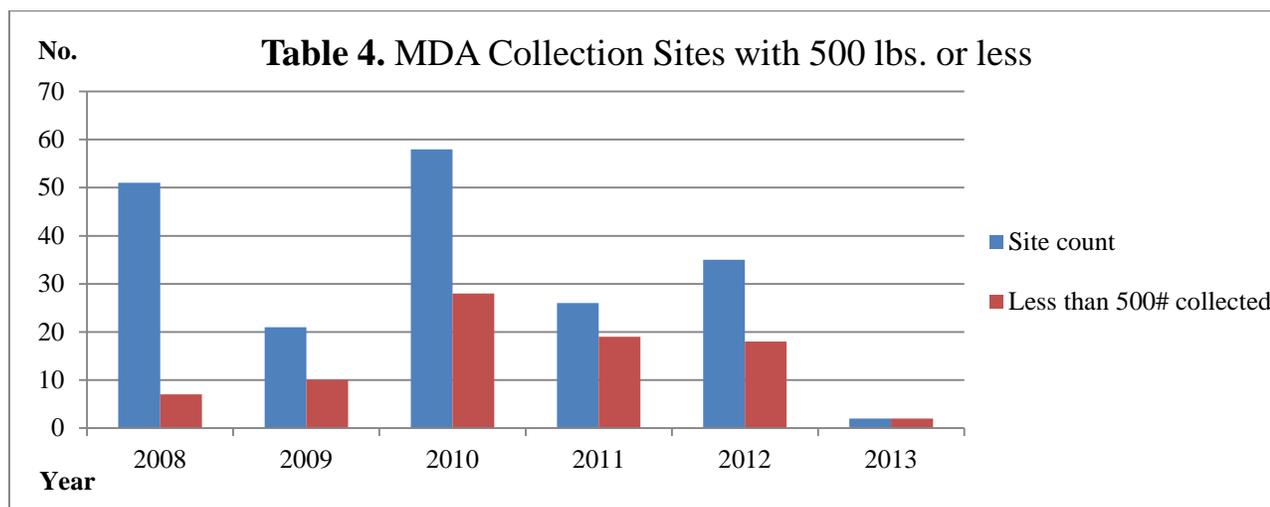
Collection Events

During the last several years, waste pesticide collections have operated on two tracks. Most collections occur at county HHW facilities throughout the state. Almost every county site accepts household waste pesticide; a lesser number accept farm waste pesticides. The MDA schedules collections in counties where an agreement is not in place.

County-managed collections offer more convenience and efficiency compared to MDA-managed collections. County collections provide regular hours, local access and well-equipped HHW facilities. These sites also have an excellent safety record.

The MDA schedules approximately 36 collection events during alternate years at temporary locations in counties where no or a limited cooperative agreements exist. MDA collections are managed by trained contractor staff and have excellent safety records. However, these collections are less convenient and less flexible. Increased costs are largely the result of mobilizations to distant, temporary sites and less productive sites.

MDA-sponsored collections are unpredictable and often yield low or no collected waste totals. In 2009, the MDA coordinated 51 collection sites, with the average amount collected totaling 3,000 pounds or less. This average dropped in 2010 to 972 pounds at 21 sites, and to 427 pounds in 2011 at 26 sites. Average amounts rose in 2012 to 1,079 pounds at 35 sites but dropped to 157 pounds in 2013 at 2 sites. Table 4 shows the number of MDA collection sites yielding 500 pounds or less of collected waste.



At least, 50 percent of MDA-scheduled collection sites yielded 500 pounds or less of waste. About 20 percent of sites collect 100 pounds of waste or less. These are small numbers which drive the per pound costs up.

Forecasting how much potential waste can be collected at a particular site is impossible. However, collection events still require a fixed amount of planning, mobilization, staff time and cost to ensure adequate preparation.

County-managed collection sites provide convenience, efficiency and operate because the waste pesticide collection often operates along-side collections of other materials at the site. As a result, county collections operate at a lower cost compared to MDA-managed collections.

Future program strategies include: promoting new county agreements to collect both household and farm waste pesticide; and propose statutory change that permits flexible scheduling in areas where no county collection exists.

Recording Information about Collected Waste

Pesticides are common tools used in the production of food, fuel and fiber. The EPA conducts risk assessments as part of the pesticide registration process. If EPA assessments are favorable, the manufacturer is allowed to register the product, provided that it is accurately labeled.

Since the program began, the MDA has recorded information from every product collected to form aggregate data and waste stream knowledge. A condition of county cooperative agreements is that collected waste pesticide is recorded and reported to the MDA. Beginning in 2009 waste pesticide collection events, counties also recorded product information.

Approximately 187,000 individual items delivered for disposal were recorded between 2009 and 2012. The sheer number of products delivered to collection sites makes record keeping a difficult and cumbersome task.

Collection sites are varied and subject to weather conditions and intermittent participation. Collection participants generally want the drop-off process to be quick, and do not provide advance notice, so pre-planning is difficult. Capturing label or container information for each pesticide slows the process considerably. Often labels are so deteriorated that information is no longer discernible. When drop-off sites are busy, recordkeeping becomes tedious and full product information is not always recorded accurately, consistently or with enough specificity.

The MDA support a proposal to suspend record keeping requirements. The postponement permitted the MDA time to analyze waste collection data, identify collection trends and propose WPC program changes. The MDA recognizes the challenges associated with recoding collected waste and acknowledges the limitations of insight into the waste stream this information provides.

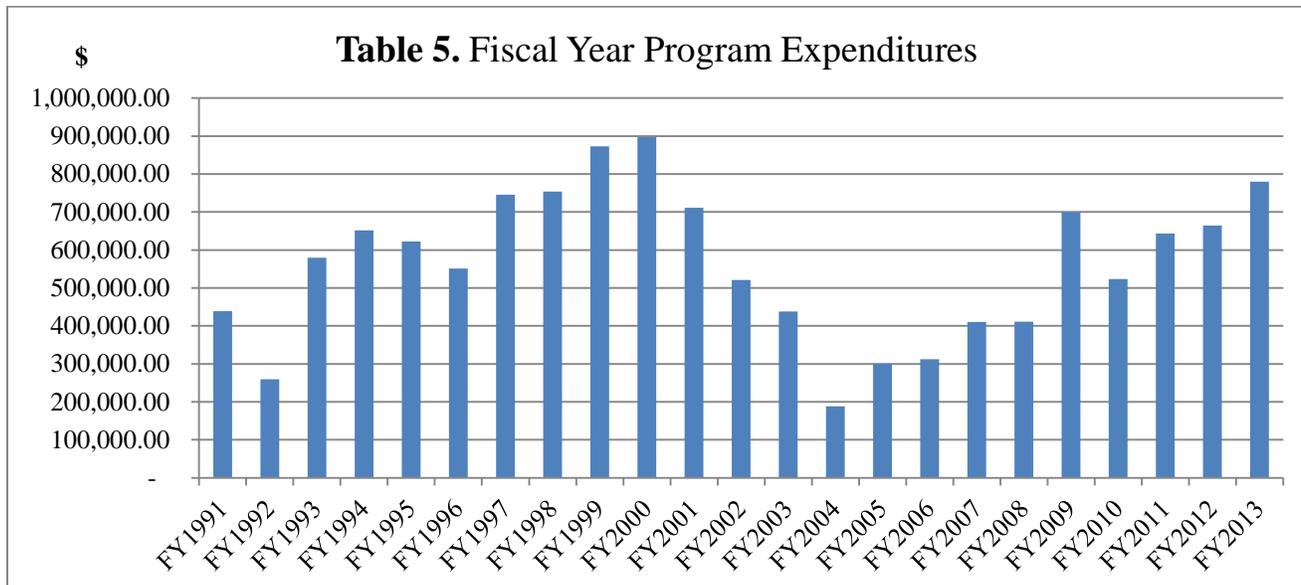
The MDA is will recommend limited record keeping guidelines. Basic descriptors of the waste stream will provide MDA enough information to monitor waste collection trends. The MDA does not support a continuation of the record keeping requirement that was suspended in 2009.

The MDA will reach out to county partners as we develop future and more specific strategies to better meet program goals. In the area of record keeping, the MDA will work with county partners to formulate a proposal that keeps the recordkeeping requirements basic, limited and targeted

Waste Pesticide Collection Financial Analysis

More than \$14 million has been spent to collect and dispose of waste pesticides since the WPC program was implemented. Program funding comes from two revenue streams: the Waste Pesticide Surcharge and the Pesticide Regulatory Account (PRA).

Manufacturers must register pesticide products with the MDA and pay a registration fee to distribute pesticides in Minnesota. Registration fees, along with fees paid for licenses and permits issued by the MDA, make up a large portion of PRA revenue. From the beginning, more than 75 percent of the WPC program expenses have been funded by PRA dollars. Table 5 provides an overall picture of fiscal year expenditures.



As of 2009, a \$50.00 Waste Pesticide Surcharge was added as a fee paid by pesticide registrants. The surcharge will be assessed on more than 12,000 pesticide products registered annually. This surcharge generates annual revenue of more than \$600,000.00 each year which is deposited into the waste pesticide cooperative agreement account. This account is dedicated to covering costs incurred by counties under a cooperative agreement.

Cooperative agreement costs to date have not exceeded the dollars deposited into the fund. The MDA has used cooperative agreement account dollars unspent in a fiscal year to cover costs related to MDA-administered collections and other program costs. The MDA also uses PRA dollars to cover WPC program costs.

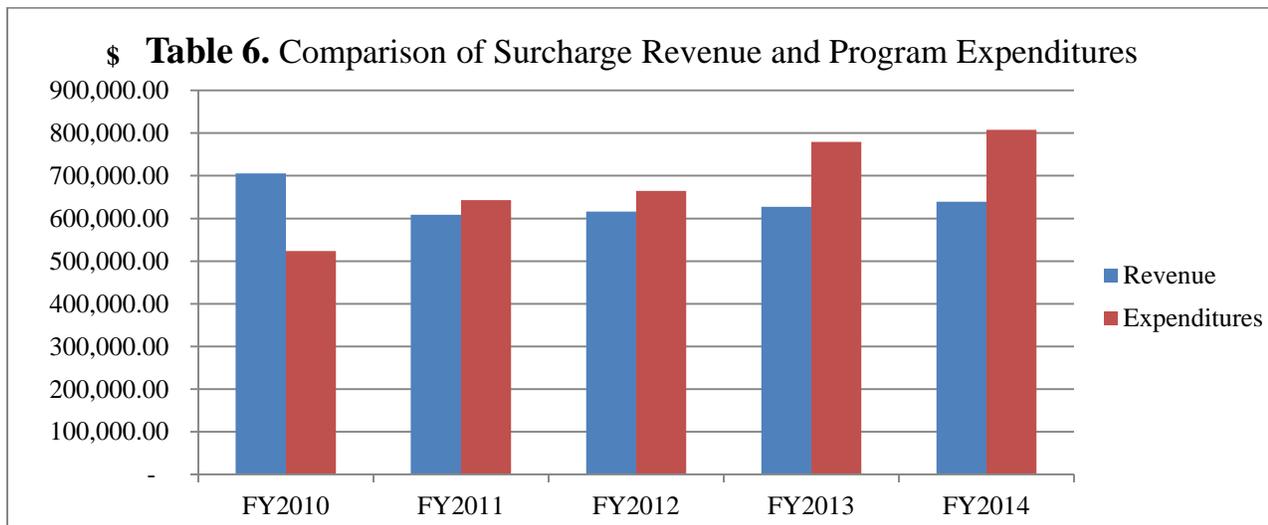
As more counties sign cooperative agreements and more county collections occur and larger amounts of waste pesticides are collected. These larger collections total means that more dollars are spent from the cooperative agreement account and fewer dollars go unspent in a fiscal year.

Currently, 86 Minnesota counties have signed a cooperative agreement to collect household waste and 51 counties have also signed on to collect farm waste. Collections totals under cooperative agreements in recent years have reached nearly 300,000 pounds annually. The MDA collection totals in counties where no cooperative agreement exists have remained flat.

For reasons previously stated, county collections are more efficient than MDA run collections. The MDA performed a comparative analysis of costs for a county to collect a pound of waste pesticide at a

county site, compared to MDA collection costs at its sites from FY 2010 to FY 2013. The average price to dispose a pound of waste pesticide collected by a county during this period is estimated at \$1.36. The average price to dispose a pound of waste pesticide collected by the MDA is estimated at \$2.39. Because of lesser collection scale, the MDA pays approximately \$1.00 more per pound to dispose of waste compared to county costs.

The MDA has supplemented unspent cooperative agreement funds with PRA dollars to cover program costs. From FY 2010 to FY 2014, surcharge revenues totaled \$3.2 million while program expenditures exceeded \$3.4 million. Table 6 lists program revenues and expenses from FY 2010 to FY 2014.



The MDA recognizes collection operations are resource-intensive and will seek to forge new county agreements to increase collection efficiencies. County collections operate more economically than MDA managed collection events. With the increasing predominance of household waste in the collection waste stream and the efficiencies of county managed collections, MDA concludes that waste pesticide collection efforts should be primarily overseen at the county level. The shift to more county based collections is an important program strategy that better meets goals and manages program costs as MDA continues to seek, identify and examine operational efficiencies.

Management Analysis & Development Report

The MDA hired the Minnesota Management & Budget (MMB) Management Analysis & Development (MAD) office to analyze WPC data from 2009 and 2012. MAD evaluated collection trends and published report findings in January 2014. The MAD study analyzed more than 187,000 collected items representing nearly 10,000 products and more than 2,600 manufacturers. As with most data analysis of this size, considerable effort was required to clean inconsistent data formats derived from various methods of recordkeeping.

The analysis showed that 463 tons of waste pesticides, predominantly household pesticides, were collected during the period. Average per-product weight collected was five (5) pounds, although the average farm waste pesticide collected typically weighed more than household pesticide product.

A fifth (1/5) of all collected pesticide contained active ingredients 2, 4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2, 4-D) or Mecroprop-p (MCP-p) which is found in both household and farm pesticides. The study showed

that a large number of collected household waste pesticides could be linked to a small number of pesticide registrants. A total of 30 registrants accounted for nearly 75 percent of waste pesticide collected; and nearly 30 percent of the delivered product was from a single pesticide registrant.

The study also notes that the waste pesticide surcharge supports collection operations that capture new and old waste pesticides. Few if any states have a dedicated surcharge to manage waste pesticide.

Surcharge revenues from registered household and farm pesticides are similarly proportioned to the waste stream collection totals. The number of household products registered is about three (3) times more than farm-registered products and revenue deposited into the waste pesticide cooperative agreement account from household pesticide registrations is larger than from farm pesticides.

The study concluded that “the necessary level of ongoing data collection can be much less following this in-depth analysis.” Recording information on each of the forty thousand (40,000) individual products delivered to collection sites each year becomes a resource-intensive activity. The report recommends, and the MDA agrees, that additional data collection should be based on evolving program needs or goals and available resources. Conclusions from the January 2014 MAD report include:

1. The Waste Pesticide Surcharge provides a stable revenue source for disposal activities.
2. The Surcharge revenue collected is proportional to the type of household and farm waste collected for disposal.
3. The total amount of household waste collected greatly exceeds the same total of farm waste collected.
4. Farm waste collection totals have remained relatively flat or declined in recent years.
5. Recording all collected pesticide is challenging and recordkeeping requirements going forward need to be reduced and targeted.

Proposals and Program Priorities

The MDA will continue to foster existing relationships with counties as a means to support efficient, simple and convenient access for the public to dispose of unwanted waste pesticide. Based on the January 2014 MAD analysis and MDA experience, three operational adjustments are being proposed:

1. County collections offer the most program efficiencies, convenience and cost benefit. The MDA will continue reach out to counties to assess program operations and establish cooperative agreements for household and farm waste pesticide collection.
2. After years of collection, the amount of remaining stored farm waste has been vastly reduced and there is less need for MDA collection events. The MDA proposes to change statutory language requiring a collection in every county on alternate years where no agreement is in place. The MDA will seek scheduling flexibility to increase program efficiency while meeting the disposal demands. The agency will propose administering regional collection sites that will adequately serve counties that promote greater efficiencies in farm waste collections.
3. The MDA supports simplified recordkeeping requirements. It agrees that recording all waste delivered to a collection a site is burdensome and that information captured is not sufficiently informative to merit such efforts. The MDA will support the collection of information that is basic, limited and sufficiently descriptive to allow MDA to track trends in the waste stream. The MDA

will engage the counties in discussions to establish record keeping guidelines that employ targeted recordkeeping procedures that permit intermittent checks of waste stream trends.

Summary

The MDA values the Waste Pesticide Collection program's 25-year history of accomplishment and the cumulative collection and safe disposal of 5.8 million pounds of pesticide waste that no longer threatens our environment. Minnesota is a national leader in its commitment to this effort; many states do not fund a collection program of this nature.

The agency looks forward to continued partnership and forging cooperative agreements with counties so that hazardous household waste (HHW) facilities and county-run collection sites become a primary agent to sustain progress and momentum. The waste stream has shifted substantially, and a majority of collected waste originates from households.

More than \$14 million has been spent on collection efforts, mostly from the state PRA account although recently most program costs are born by Waste Pesticide Surcharge revenues. The average price to dispose a pound of waste pesticide collected by a county is less than MDA costs.

Future recommendations are to refine the program model so that counties take the lead to collect what now constitutes primarily household pesticide waste. The MDA sees a county-led model as a viable means to provide flexible, cost-efficient collection services resulting in reduced cost-per-pound overhead. Additionally, the MDA recommends simplified record keeping requirements so that significant time and resources are not devoted to tracking trace or minimal amounts of pesticides.

Over the past two decades, the relationship with Minnesota counties has evolved from assistance in outreach and event planning, to what it is for many counties today: formal cooperative agreements to collect household and farm waste pesticides at their HHW facilities and mobile facilities. To meet evolving waste stream trends and public need, the MDA will focus on future program strategies to:

- Reach out to county partners to foster existing county relationships, evaluate programmatic changes and work to make unwanted pesticide disposal more efficient, simple and convenient.
- Propose statutory change of record keeping that permits flexible, limited and basic descriptors of products taken at collection sites.
- Propose statutory change that allows for flexible collection scheduling in areas where no cooperative agreement exists to support collection efficiencies.
- Establish new county agreements to collect both household and farm waste pesticide.
- Continue to examine sources and reasons for high amounts of household waste generated in specific areas.

Conclusion

The Waste Pesticide Collection Program has a long-standing history as critically important to protect and preserve Minnesota's environment. The evolution of the program and the development of strong partnerships with existing county collection operations have increased efficiency and effectiveness.

The MDA has witnessed a dramatic change in the farm pesticide waste stream. Old products have been removed from farms, and new agronomic practices support the generation of less waste. The prevalence of farm waste pesticide has been reduced. Many dangerous products have been removed from the landscape. What farm waste remains is, as evidenced by small collection totals, much lower and more manageable quantities.

Successful collaborations with county HHW programs have resulted in removal of very totals of household waste pesticide. The volume of household waste continues to rise as more counties enter into agreements with MDA. County-administered collections offer greater conveniences and provide for greater program economy. The rise in household waste quantities is not surprising. In many ways it mirrors collection trends observed in the early years of collecting farm waste. The MDA will continue to monitor these trends and examine sources and reasons for high amounts of household waste generated in specific areas.

The program continues to protect Minnesota's environment well; making sure unwanted products are removed before they spill or are released into the environment. The partnerships between counties and MDA have been successful. With each passing year, the MDA and counties understand the household waste stream better. The operation of collection program is expensive, but these efforts are supported by the revenue generated by the Waste Pesticide Surcharge and supplemental PRA dollars.

The MDA will reach out to county partners to foster existing county relationships, evaluate programmatic changes and support strategies that make disposal processes more efficient and convenient. The MDA will seek to establish new county agreements to collect both household and farm waste pesticide.

The state is fortunate to have a program like the Waste Pesticide Collection Program. The agency recognizes that program accomplishments would not be possible without MDA-county partnerships. We especially recognize those counties that have entered agreements to collection both household and farm waste. MDA looks forward to this continued and supportive collaboration to protect the public and preserve our environment.