



2014

Waste Pesticide Collection Program Legislative Report



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Executive Summary

Under legislative authority, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) created a Waste Pesticide Collection (WPC) program in 1990. The intent was to provide disposal service to farmers that stored unwanted and unusable pesticides. As the program evolved, the MDA sought partnerships with county-run household hazardous waste (HHW) facilities to collect more pesticides. By the end of the first decade, the MDA-WPC program was disposing as much household waste pesticide from the residential sector as compared to farm waste pesticide.

Throughout the nearly 25-year history of the program, the MDA fostered successful county partnerships and saw a steady decline in the amount of farm waste pesticide collected. Less was being stored in barns, sheds, and on farms. The program began to see the need for household waste pesticide collection as farm pesticide waste amounts tapered. In 2008, the legislature changed the MDA's role with counties to include collection of both farm and household pesticide waste.

The funding mechanism for cooperative agreement activities is based on a product surcharge for every pesticide registered and sold in Minnesota. Surcharge revenue is placed in a dedicated account to pay for expenses. Under cooperative agreement the cost of waste pesticide collection, which includes disposal, supplies, transportation and reasonable overhead cost reimbursement, is paid from the cooperative agreement account. County cooperative agreements allow the HHWs to choose whether to collect household waste pesticides, farm waste pesticides, or both.

The MDA organizes farm waste collection events every other year in counties where no agreement exists. It also schedules annual events to collect household pesticide where no county agreements exist. Currently, the waste stream consists predominantly of household waste pesticide. Farm waste pesticide collection averages approximately 50,000 pounds per year, while household waste totals about 300,000 pounds per year.

All but one (1) of 87 Minnesota counties has entered into MDA-WPC agreements. A total of 30 counties collect household waste pesticide only; the remaining 56 counties collect both household and farm waste pesticides.

Background

Pesticides are chemicals used to control all sorts of pests. Ranging from highly-concentrated agricultural chemicals for dilution to ready to use household products, pesticides help control weeds, disease, insects, fungus, parasites, and rodent pests.

Agricultural chemicals (pesticides/fertilizers) benefit the agricultural economy and are also in greenhouses, nurseries, golf courses, commercial lawn care and households. Conversely, if not handled properly, pesticides can pose a health and environmental risk. These products are stringently regulated and require the proper disposal of unwanted or unusable waste pesticide. Therefore, the MDA has continued to provide this service directly to counties and by partnering with HHWs through cooperative agreement.

By the end of 2014, the MDA-WPC program collected more than 5.8 million pounds of farm and household waste pesticide. Before 1990, the MDA-WPC program focused on an estimated three (3) million pounds of farm pesticide waste that was stockpiled in barns, sheds and on Minnesota farms. In the first 10 years of the program, an average of 150,000 pounds of farm pesticide waste was collected annually.

After 2000, collected farm waste declined due to successful outreach and removal efforts and the MDA-WPC program began to voluntarily accept household pesticides. Eventually household waste pesticide

collection began to outnumber per-pound farm waste pesticide collection by a five-to-one ratio. Today nearly 75 percent of all waste pesticide collected by the MDA-WPC program is from households. Farm waste pesticide collection has dropped to an average of 50,000 pounds or less in recent years.

Legislative

Per Minnesota Statute, Chapter 18B.065, Sub. 3(b), the MDA must annually by March 15th report 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.

Note: The requirement to collect data on all waste pesticides collected (for 2014-2015) by the MDA and counties under cooperative agreement was suspended by the legislature (*Minnesota 2013, Chapter 114, Article 2, Section 66*).

Program Milestones

The MDA recognizes the successful 25-year history of the Waste Pesticide Collection program. Through cooperative county partnerships, this has resulted in the safe removal and disposal of more than 5.8 million pounds of waste pesticides that no longer threaten our land and water. Program milestones include:

Table 1: WPC 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-product Waste Pesticide Surcharge (\$50) established to fund county costs.

Year	Milestone
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.

The MDA-WPC program will continue to build success by maintaining partnerships with Minnesota counties and supporting operational efficiency of waste pesticide collection efforts. The MDA assists communities to sustain public health, protect the environment and support animal safety by reducing risk of exposure to agricultural and household waste pesticides.

Collaboration

In 2014, MDA-sponsored events were held in 31 counties (mostly in the west and northwestern regions) to collect waste pesticides. Events were held in counties that did not have cooperative agreements with MDA to collect farm waste pesticides. Table 2 below lists the number of counties that: collect household/farm; collect household only; have no agreement.

Table 2: Minnesota county agreements for waste pesticide collection

Type of Waste Pesticide Collected	Number of Counties 2014	Number of Counties 2013
Household and farm waste pesticides	56	57
Only household waste pesticides	30	29
Neither household nor farm waste pesticides; declined MDA cooperative agreement offer	1	1

Figure 2 provides a state map illustrating cooperative agreements between the MDA and all 87 Minnesota counties. The MDA has cooperative agreements with 86 Minnesota counties. Of those, 56 counties agree to collect both household and farm waste pesticide. A total of 30 counties collect household waste pesticide only; and a single county has opted out of the program. To date, the MDA has not refused waste pesticide at any county event.

Figure 2: Map of county participation in Minnesota



2014 Collection Totals & Trends

Last year, the total of waste pesticide collected equaled nearly 524,000 pounds. At MDA-sponsored events, a total of 71,884 waste pesticide pounds were collected. County partners collected 452,025 pounds. Combined, 2014 was a banner year for overall waste pesticide collection totals in Minnesota. Figure 3 shows total pounds collected during the history of the program, from 1990 to 2014. Table 3 compares historic differences between farm waste pesticide collected and household waste pesticide managed by MDA's WPC program. Note that 2013 thru 2014 total pounds collected differentiate types of waste collection only by event type due to the suspension of record keeping.

Figure 3: Summary of waste pesticide pounds collected and disposed (1990-2014)

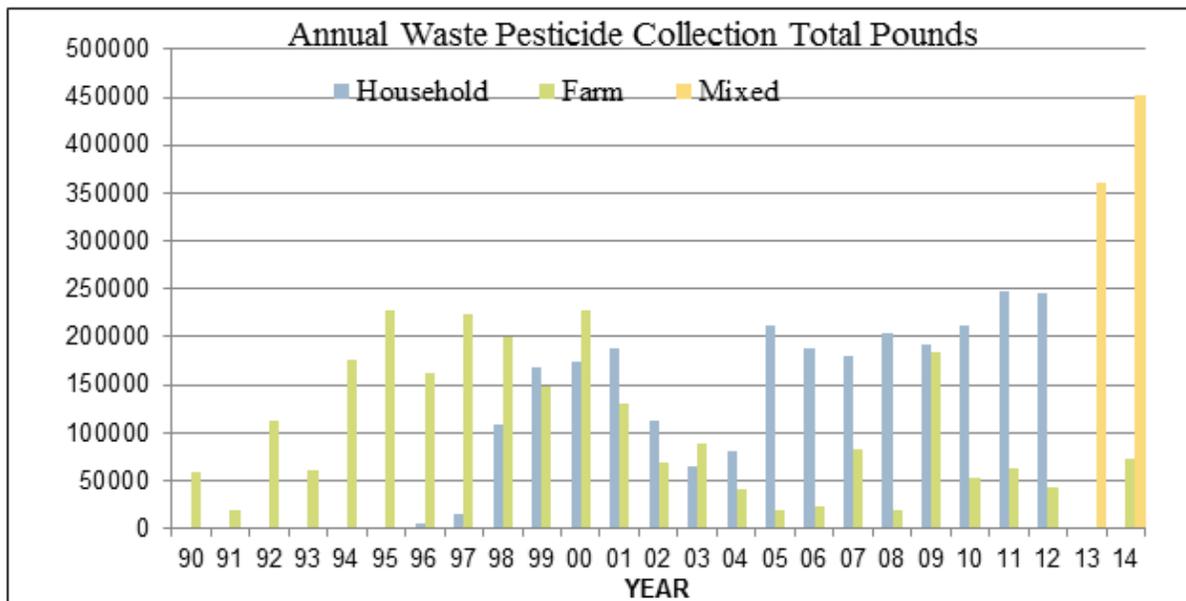


Table 3: Total pounds waste pesticide collected by MDA and Counties in 2013 and 2014

MDA or HHW	2014 Total pounds	2013 Total pounds
Collected by counties or HHW regions	452,025	360,738
Collected by MDA	71,884	316
Total pounds	523,909	361,054

In 2013, the Minnesota Management & Budget Management Analysis & Development office was contracted to analyze waste pesticide collection data from 2009-2012. Conclusions in the report indicate that the Waste Pesticide Surcharge provides a stable revenue source and revenue is proportional to the amount of pesticide waste collected. The analysis also concluded that farm waste pesticide collection has declined compared to household waste pesticide collection. The report also stated that county recordkeeping requirements going forward needed to be reduced. Since the report was published, MDA staff from the Pesticide & Fertilizer Management Division have met with members of the Solid Waste Administrators Association Board to discuss recommendations and proposed policy changes. Full report here: <http://bit.ly/1wmhNVp>

Collection costs and cumulative totals for the past year amounted to \$745,981 overall, compared to \$517,201 in 2013. Due to the increase in pounds collected in 2014 (523,909 total pounds) compared to 2013 collections (361,054 total pounds), this accounts for the \$228,780 increase outlined in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Collection costs for 2014

Cost	Cooperative Agreements	MDA Events	Total 2014	Total 2013
Disposal	\$527,902	\$87,848	\$615,750	\$422,837
Advertising	\$800.00	\$6,125	\$6,925	\$670
Overhead	\$113,006	\$10,300	\$123,306	\$93,694
Cumulative Totals	\$641,708	\$104,273	\$745,981	\$517,201

County household hazardous waste facilities and counties under cooperative agreement with the MDA are reimbursed "reasonable overhead costs" based on the per-pound totals collected each year. Table 4 provides a breakdown of costs per county.

Table 5: Participating counties under cooperative agreement

Region/County Program	Members of Region	Waste Pesticide Collected	Reasonable Overhead Costs Paid
Becker	Becker, Norman, Hubbard, Mahnomon	5,459	\$1,364.75
Blue Earth	Blue Earth, Watonwan	7,667	\$1,838.00
Brown	Brown	3,127	\$781.75
Chisago	Chisago, Isanti	5,398	\$1,349.50
Clay	Clay	1,499	\$374.75
Crow Wing	Crow Wing	3,128	\$782.00
Freeborn	Freeborn	2,722	\$680.50
Kanabec	Kanabec	271	\$67.75
Kandiyohi	Kandiyohi, Meeker, Renville, Chippewa, Swift, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle	8,613	\$2,153.25
Lyon	Lyon, Lincoln, Redwood, Murray, Rock, Cottonwood, Nobles, Pipestone, Jackson, Yellow Medicine	16,071	\$4,017.75
McLeod	McLeod	6,455	\$1,613.75
Morrison	Morrison	1,194	\$298.50
Mower	Mower	1,166	\$290.25
NWMNHHW	Kittson, Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Cass, Beltrami, Marshall, Red Lake, Polk, Clearwater, Pennington	4,722	\$1,180.50
Olmsted	Olmsted, Goodhue,	7,103	\$1,775.75

Region/County Program	Members of Region	Waste Pesticide Collected	Reasonable Overhead Costs Paid
	Wabasha, Dodge		
Otter Tail	Otter Tail, Grant, Stevens, Traverse, Wilkin, Wadena	2,200	\$550.00
Pine	Pine	236	\$59.00
Pope/Douglas	Pope, Douglas	3,957	\$989.25
Prairieland	Martin Faribault	4,542	\$1,135.50
Rice	Rice, Steele, Waseca	11,005	\$2,751.25
Sherburne	Sherburne	3,725	\$931.25
Stearns-TriN	Stearns, Benton, Sherburne	12,270	\$3,067.50
Tricounty South	Sibley, Nicollet, Le Sueur	8,323	\$2,080.75
Winona	Winona, Fillmore, Houston	5,527	\$1,381.75
Todd	Todd	604	\$151.00
WLSSD	St. Louis, Koochiching, Itasca, Aitkin, Carlton Lake, Cook	20,168	\$5,042.00
Wright	Wright	16,131	\$4,032.75
Anoka	Anoka	29,604	\$7,401.00
Carver	Carver	19,506	\$4,876.50
Dakota	Dakota	40,185	\$10,046.25
Hennepin	Hennepin	104,894	\$26,223.50
Ramsey	Ramsey	48,449	\$12,112.25
Scott	Scott	5,367	\$1,341.75
Washington	Washington	41,057	\$10,264.25
Total		452,025	\$113,006.25

The MDA-WPC program continues to schedule and hold collection events in counties that have not entered into cooperative agreement to collect farm waste pesticides. MDA events in 31 counties generated 71,884 pounds of waste pesticide in addition to an MDA “special run” that was required for safe removal.

Table 5: Non-participating county waste pesticide collection totals for 2014

County	Total Pounds
1. Todd	1,212
2. Otter Tail	3,863
3. Wilkin	1,820
4. Grant	1,669
5. Traverse	3,087
6. Stevens	2,630
7. Pope	1,603
8. Douglas	1,473
9. Clay	4,000
10. Polk	5,689
11. Clearwater	1,629
12. Beltrami	315
13. Cass	491
14. Wadena	1,390
15. Red Lake	417
16. Pennington	459
17. Marshall	2,296
18. Kittson	3,220
19. Roseau	566

County	Total Pounds
20. LOW	987
21. Anoka	532
22. Isanti	621
23. Benton	875
24. Mille Lacs	336
25. Scott	1,062
26. Goodhue	2,204
27. Wabasha	1,815
28. Dodge	1,819
29. Houston	638
30. Hennepin	6,649
31. Ramsey	2,717
32. MDA Special Run	13,800
TOTAL	71,884

Program Recommendations

The MDA Waste Pesticide Collection program has a long-standing history that is crucial in protecting and preserving Minnesota ecosystems. The evolution of the program and the development of strong partnerships with existing county collection operations have increased efficiency and effectiveness. Recommendations for future program success include:

1. Continue to assess program needs and functions.
2. Engage counties not collecting farm waste pesticides and better determine the concerns they have with partnering.
3. Request flexibility in data recording that will allow for more targeted goals as determined by the MDA and its partners.
4. Request flexibility in locating MDA ag collection sites for maximum collection efficiency.
5. Continue ongoing discussions with the MN Pollution Control Agency to 1) evaluate waste pesticide reduction strategies for households and initiating discussions with industry; 2) assess and prioritize collection and educational activities in counties that continue to generate the most waste pesticides, and the greatest volumes of household hazardous wastes in general; and, 3) evaluate the most cost efficient and effective collection methods for waste pesticides between HHW facilities, in coordination with other household hazardous waste materials.
6. Discuss with manufacturers, retailers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency the feasibility and practicality of the placement of efficacy labels on pesticides since many home use products are surrendered as waste because it is thought they are old and no longer effective.