



2018

Waste Pesticide Collection Program

Legislative Report



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

Executive Summary

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) created a Waste Pesticide Collection (WPC) program in 1990. The program initially focused on providing disposal opportunities for farmers who stored unwanted and unusable pesticides in barns and sheds. During the first 10 years the program operated, hundreds of tons of agricultural waste pesticides were collected for proper disposal. Subsequently, there was a noticeable decline in the amount of agricultural waste pesticide collected indicating that less waste pesticides were being stored in barns, sheds, and on farms than when the program began.

As agricultural waste totals declined, the WPC program began collecting much more household waste pesticide. Eventually, the MDA entered into formal cooperative agreements with county-run Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facilities to capture more waste pesticides at local facilities. As part of those agreements, county cooperators choose to collect household waste pesticides, agricultural waste pesticides, or both.

The partnerships between the MDA and county cooperators have been an effective tool for waste pesticide collection. Recent county cooperator collections have yielded an average of more than **500,000 pounds** of waste pesticide annually. The annual total is comprised of approximately 440,000 pounds of household waste pesticide and 60,000 pounds of agricultural waste pesticide. All 87 Minnesota counties are covered by cooperative agreements for the collection of household waste pesticide; 73 counties collect both household and agricultural waste pesticides.

The effectiveness of these partnerships yielded high volumes resulting in increased disposal cost for waste pesticide. The increased costs then 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.

In this report, "agricultural" waste pesticides refers 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 1990, more than eight million pounds of agricultural and household waste pesticides have been collected.

For many years, the MDA organized collection events throughout the state that focused on collecting agricultural waste pesticides. 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 has entered 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.

The collection program is different today than when it began in 1990. The MDA estimates that more than 75 percent of all waste pesticides collected come from households. Agricultural waste pesticides yields are estimated at approximately 60,000 pounds annually.

Legislative

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute, Chapter 18B.065, Sub. 3(b) (2016), by March 15, the MDA must report annually 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.

There were no instances of any cooperator refusing to accept waste pesticide for disposal. MN Rule 1509.0030 and MN Statute 18B.065 allows 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 2018, five companies were charged a fee for volumes over 300 pounds. The total payments of \$3,926.00 were collected.

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

- 300-1,000 pound 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 pesticide offered for disposal and submit the record to the MDA. Waste pesticide shipped and not on the form is assumed to be household. The MDA receives a record of the weight of agricultural waste pesticide 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; 180,000 pounds/ household waste.
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 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/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; 51 counties agree to collect agricultural waste.
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 pesticides registered in state to cover rising volumes of household waste pesticides.

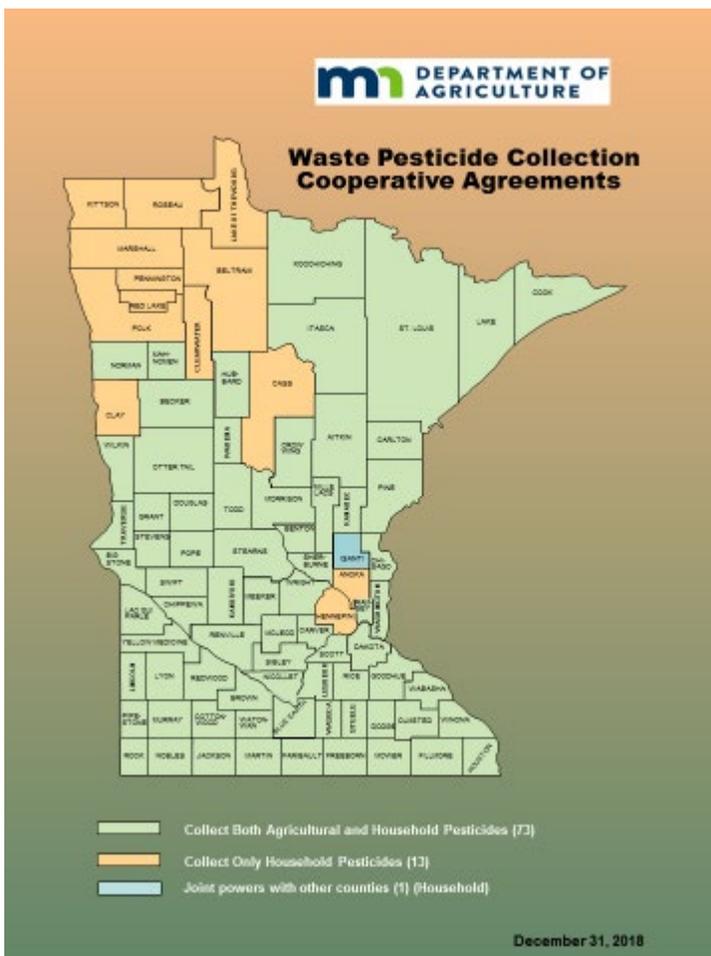
Collaboration

The MDA continues to have cooperative agreements that cover Minnesota’s 87 counties. Of those, 73 counties collect both household and agricultural waste pesticide and 14 counties collect only household waste pesticide. During the 2018 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.

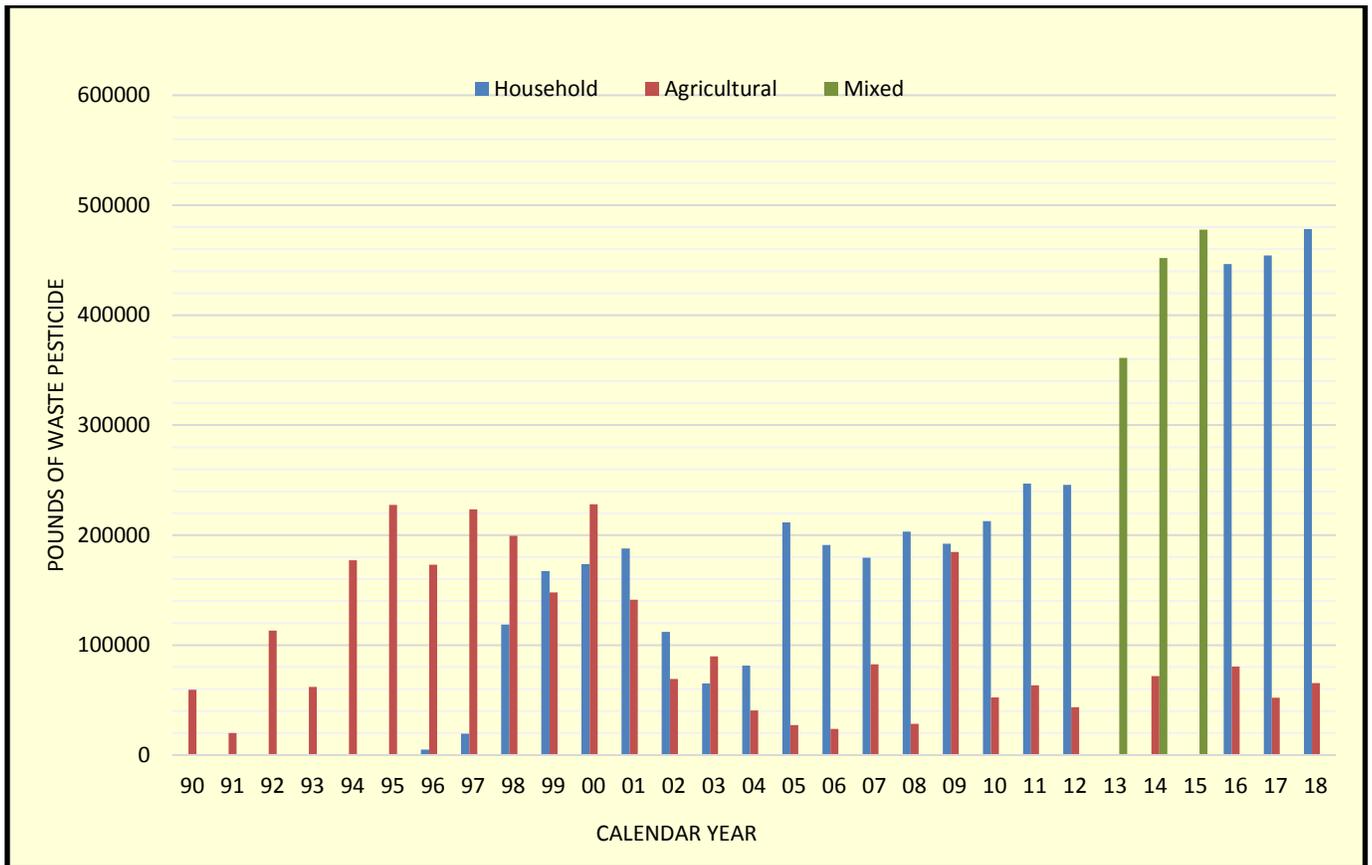


2018 Collection Totals & Trends

County collections netted more than 500,000 pounds of household and agricultural waste pesticides in 2018. The MDA sponsors events in areas where cooperative agreements do not exist; however, pursuant to statute, these collections occur every other year. The MDA had six stand-alone events in 2018.

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

Figure 2. Yearly pounds of waste pesticide collected from 1990 to 2018.



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 graph.

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

Calendar Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
MDA Event Pounds	316	71,884	0	20,261	0	19,869
Cooperative Agreement Pounds	360,738	452,025	477,804	505,894	500,770	523,992
Total Pounds	361,054	523,909	477,804	526,155	500,770	543,861

Table 4. Cooperative agreements totals and costs by county for 2018.

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, Mahnomen	0	1,947	\$486.75
Blue Earth	Blue Earth, Watonwan	2,593	5,898	\$2,122.75
Brown	Brown	537	1,499	\$509.00
Chisago	Chisago, Isanti	1,196	5,190	\$1,596.50
Clay	Clay	0	2,088	\$522.00
Crow Wing	Crow Wing	706	2,750	\$864.00
Freeborn	Freeborn	766	1,823	\$647.25
Houston	Houston	0	439	\$109.75

Region/County Program	Members of Region	Net Ag Pounds Waste Pesticide Collected	Net Household Pounds Waste Pesticide Collected	Reasonable Overhead Costs Paid
Kandiyohi	Kandiyohi, Meeker, Renville, Chippewa, Swift, Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle	2,869	5,240	\$2,027.25
Lyon	Lyon, Lincoln, Redwood, Murray, Rock, Cottonwood, Nobles, Pipestone, Jackson, Yellow Medicine	12,750	5,356	\$4,526.50
McLeod	McLeod	216	5,423	\$1,409.75
Morrison	Morrison	825	849	\$418.50
Mower	Mower	156	339	\$123.75
NWMNHHW	Kittson, Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Cass, Beltrami, Marshall, Red Lake, Polk, Clearwater, Pennington	0	8,768	\$2,192.00
Olmsted	Olmsted, Goodhue, Wabasha, Dodge	5,551	7,614	\$3,291.25
Otter Tail	Otter Tail, Grant, Stevens, Traverse, Wilkin, Wadena	3,689	2,554	\$1,560.75
Pine	Pine	0	1,988	\$497.00
Pope/Douglas	Pope, Douglas	805	5,817	\$1,655.50
PrairieLand	Martin Faribault	1,846	634	\$620.00
Rice	Rice, Steele, Waseca	1,623	4,712	1,583.75
Sherburne	Sherburne	148	3,666	\$953.50
Stearns	Stearns, Benton, Sherburne	808	24,819	\$6,406.75
Tricounty South	Sibley, Nicollet, Le Sueur	6,095	532	\$1,656.75
Winona	Winona, Fillmore, Houston	69	4,701	\$1,192.50
Todd	Todd	465	362	\$206.75
WLSSD	St. Louis, Koochiching, Itasca, Aitkin, Carlton Lake, Cook	731	25,734	\$6,116.25
Wright	Wright	0	5,942	\$1,485.50

Region/County Program	Members of Region	Net Ag Pounds Waste Pesticide Collected	Net Household Pounds Waste Pesticide Collected	Reasonable Overhead Costs Paid
Anoka	Anoka	0	37,494	\$9,373.50
Carver	Carver	520	21,288	\$5,452.00
Dakota	Dakota	420	26,346	\$6,691.50
Hennepin	Hennepin	0	118,842	\$29,710.50
Ramsey	Ramsey	0	56,896	\$14,224.00
Scott	Scott	0	13,583	\$3,395.75
Washington	Washington	317	66,375	\$16,673.00

Outreach

The MDA provides guidance for cooperating counties on how to record agricultural waste pesticide weights on MDA forms, and what types of wastes are accepted into the program. The MDA's YouTube video has been made available for training purposes and can be found on the web 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 rinsates are not waste pesticides and are not eligible for disposal through the MDA Waste Pesticide Collection program.

The MDA has sought to enlist more counties in cooperative agreements to collect agricultural waste pesticides. Some 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 are allowed to be assessed to pesticide end users for disposing of waste pesticides over 300 pounds. This would be effective, in some cases, in reducing the overall volume of large deliveries and also, if the charge is acceptable by the pesticide end user, helps offset 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 notified to contact the MDA when waste volumes exceed 300 pounds. This enables the MDA to 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 pesticide 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 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.
6. Discuss with counties the current status of the Reasonable Overhead Cost reimbursement.