

LEQA Certification Standards



LEQA CERTIFICATION STANDARDS – MARCH 2010

Program Overview:

The Livestock Environmental Quality Assurance (LEQA) Program is currently funded with the Clean Water Legacy funds through Minnesota Department of Agriculture. The LEQA is based upon an EQA program developed by Minnesota Milk Producers Association with guidance provided by dairy industry partners and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, NRCS, BWSR, MDH, DNR, SWCD and County government units.

The LEQA Program is a voluntary program for producers that want to demonstrate to the general public and to state officials that their farm meets or exceeds high industry standards for environmental stewardship.

The is accomplished by providing the producer with an assessment that is based upon certification standards, a resource management action plan to achieve those standards and 20 hours of assistance to meet to those standards. The LEQA program allows the producer to choose either a first, second or third party assessment process as long as the assessor has been trained and certified. The LEQA program management believes the complex nature of on-farm resource management should not solely be allocated to third-parties that have no managerial interest in the operation. Ownership in the management of both production and natural resources can be efficiently integrated using the producers' best judgment. Program integrity is maintained by a third-party audit process.

Providing resource management assurance to the multitude of stakeholders will ultimately provide the greatest value to the livestock producers in Minnesota. For that reason, the LEQA assessment is designed to provide the necessary information and support to move producers from assessment, to plan implementation and to an annual assurance process.

LEQA Program Description:

Steps in the Process to Achieve “LEQA FIVE-STAR CERTIFICATION”:

Step 1: Register by Calling Ag Resource Strategies at 507-359-1889

The LEQA Program will help you enhance your farm’s environmental stewardship and provide you with the technical assistance you need to make changes for to secure federal and state cost-share funding for making environmental improvements. This is a voluntary program for all livestock producers. A registration fee of \$225 is required.

Step 2: Develop Your Environmental Action Plan.

A locally-based Certified LEQA Technician will contact you to schedule an Environmental Assessment using the Certification Standards in this manual. Your LEQA Technician will help you develop your farm’s Environmental Action Plan and work with you to achieve LEQA Five-Star Certification at your own pace.

Step 3: Implement Your Environmental Action Plan.

Your LEQA Technician will help you get technical assistance and help you identify and apply for cost-share funding to implement your farm’s Environmental Action Plan. Participants in the LEQA Program may also receive a higher priority for state cost-share funding.

Step 4: Achieve LEQA Five-Star Certification & Water Quality Assurance Standards

Farms that achieve an LEQA score of 3.5 or higher in each of the five management areas and a score of 3 or higher on all assessment categories qualify for Five-Star Certification. Your LEQA Technician will conduct a Certification Walkthrough with an MPCA, CFO and/or Ag Resource Strategies representative to document that your farm has achieved certification.

Step 5: Continue to be a Positive Example of Excellence in Environmental Stewardship.

Farms that qualify for LEQA Five-Star Certification must also agree to strive to maintain LEQA Certification Standards into the future and agree to participate in periodic review to maintain the credibility of the program. Minnesota Milk Producers Association will recognize their dairy farm members that achieve LEQA Five-Star Certification by providing signage for your farm that recognizes your achievements and by featuring you in local and statewide promotions of positive examples of environmental stewardship by Minnesota’s dairy farmers. Other agricultural organizations may provide sign recognition for their constituents.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ASSURANCE IN FIVE KEY MANAGEMENT AREAS:

- ★ Farm
- ★ Farmstead
- ★ Facilities
- ★ Fields & Pastures
- ★ Forests

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LEQA CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

LEQA Farm Operation Assessment Information:

LEQA Farm ID# _____

County: _____

Township: _____

Section(s): _____

Date: _____

Technician Name: _____

Technician Contact Info: _____

PLEASE LIST THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR THE FARM BEING ASSESSED:

- Current Registered Type and Number of Animal Units (AU)
-

Type	AUs	AUs	AUs	Key
Dairy				Over 1,000 lbs. = 1.4 au; 1 heifer = .7 au; 1 calf = .
Beef				Under 1,000 lbs. = 1.0 au
CowC				1 calf = .2 au; Pair = 1.2; 1 heifer = .7 au
Swine				300# = .4; 55-300# = .3; <55 = .05
Sheep				.01 au
Turkeys				>5# = .018; <5 = .005
Broilers				Wet .033 au; Dry <5 + .003; >5= .005 au
Egg Layer				>5 = .05; <5 = .03

▪ Does the Farm have a Feedlot Registration/OLA Number? Yes No FR/OLA # _____

▪ Does the Farm have a Feedlot Permit at this Time? Yes No Feedlot# _____

LEQA CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

- Farm Operation Acres _____

Farmland Use	Acres
Cropland	
Shelterbelt	
Windbreak	
Grassland	
Woodland - Coniferous	
Woodland - Deciduous	
Wetland - Herbaceous	
Wetland - Wooded	
Total Farm Operation	

- USGS HUC-8# _____

- USGS HUC-8 Name _____

- TMDL Watershed Name or N/A _____

- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (As Applicable to the Farm Operation)

Perennial & Intermittent Streams		High Water Table Soils	
Lakes and Wetlands		High Phosphorus Soils	
Drainage Ditch		Wells and Well Protection Areas	
Open Tile Intakes		Sinkholes	
Steeply Sloping Land		Coarse Textured Soils	
Road Ditches		Shallow Soils over Bedrock	
Annually Flooded Soils		Mines and Quarries	
Frozen Soils		Priority Ranking	

SECTION 1 - FARM MANAGEMENT

Topic + RATING:	4	3	2	1
A. Water Body Protected By Vegetative Buffer #1-1	Protection along full length.	Substantial protection with minimal small gaps.	Minimal protection with substantial gaps.	No protection.
B. Width of Vegetative Buffer #1-2	>50' buffer at all points Or Meets criteria for NRCS Filter Strip code 393.	Buffer strips are 2.5 times the channel width or 33' - whichever is less	>10' buffer at all points.	<10' buffer at some points.
C. Type of Vegetative Buffer #1-3	Dense perennial grasses, and/or trees, and/or shrubs with no evidence of channeling. Meets NRCS Standards for Riparian Forest Buffer (code 391 & 393).	Perennial grasses, and/or trees and/or shrubs where channeling of surface water runoff is not significant (limited to unusual rainfall events).	Perennial grasses, with or without trees and shrubs, where significant evidence of channeling of surface water runoff is evident.	Sparse perennial vegetation.
D. Animal Access To Water Bodies #1-4	No access, except at developed crossings or watering area(s) or by prescribed grazing where effective erosion control techniques have been applied.	Access does not result in bank erosion.	Access results in limited bank erosion.	Access causes significant bank erosion.
E. Stream bank/Shoreland Erosion #3-3	Streambank/Shoreland is vegetated and stable with a minimum amount (15%) of sloughing or under cutting	Streambank/Shoreland is more than 75% vegetated, erosion occurs in limited places. Or Reasonable Streambank/Shoreland erosion control measures have been implemented.	Erosion occurs along most of the streambank/shoreland and land sloughing occurs.	Heavy streambank/shoreland erosion occurring along most of the stream bank.

SECTION 1 - FARM MANAGEMENT

HABITAT AND DIVERSITY (DATA DERIVED FROM NRCS WHES)

HABITAT TYPE	HSI	Acres	Wgt HSI	Unit HSI
Cropland				
Shelterbelt				
Windbreak				
Grasslands				
Woodland – Coniferous				
Woodland – Deciduous				
Wetland - Herbaceous				
Wetland - Wooded				
Diversity	(C)			
SUM		(B)	(A)	(4.)
1. Use MN Wildlife Habitat Evaluation System to obtain HSI values.				
2. Total up Acres (B)				
3. Total up Weighted HIS (A)				
4. Farm Unit HSI = [(A/B) + (C/2)] x 0.5				

HABITAT AND DIVERSITY

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
Habitat and Diversity <small>NRCS WHES</small>	Farm Unit HSI is equal to or greater than (\geq) 0.70	Farm Unit HSI is equal to or greater than (\geq) 0.50 and less than ($<$) 0.70	Farm Unit HSI is greater than (\geq) 0.25 and less than ($<$) 0.5 0	Farm Unit HSI is less than ($<$) 0.25

SECTION 1 - FARM MANAGEMENT

COMMUNITY IMAGE

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
Grounds Maintenance	Building site is well maintained, mowed and trimmed.	Some tall grass and/or weeds are visible from road next to buildings or fences.	Used equipment and manure piles visible from road.	Grounds not maintained.
Building Maintenance	Buildings painted and in good repair.	Some buildings need paint, generally in good repair.	Most buildings in need of paint/repair.	Buildings in need of paint and repair or removal.
Shelterbelt Condition	Shelterbelt in good to excellent condition with no unused equipment.	Shelterbelt in fair to good condition.	Shelterbelt in poor condition or no shelterbelt.	
Community Perception of Animal Care #2-1	Cows in pasture visible from road And Cow Cleanliness scores average <2.5.	Cows in feedlot not visible from the road Or Cows in pasture visible from the road with Cow Cleanliness scores average <3. Or No livestock outside.	Cows in pasture or feedlot visible from the road And Cow Cleanliness scores average >3.	Cows in feedlot visible from the road And Cow Cleanliness scores average >4.
Farm Visits	Producer has hosted farm tours/visits from community groups within past three years.	N/A	N/A	N/A

SECTION 1 - FARM MANAGEMENT

COMMUNITY IMAGE

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
Ag in the Classroom #5-1	Producer partipates in Ag in the Classroom program in the last three years.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Community Interaction	Producer has served in a “Leadership Role” in a community or business organization(s).	Producer is an “Active Member” in a community or business organization(s).	Producer is a “Member” of a community or business organization(s).	Producer is not a member of a community or business organization.
Recreational Access	Access to land for hunting, birding, wildlife observing, native seed collecting is generally granted with permission.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Plan for Handling Complaints #5-2	A written plan is in place and has been distributed to pertinent employees for handling complaints about farm management practices.	A written plan is in place for handling complaints about farm management practices.	No plan in place for handling complaints.	Ignores complaints.
Good Neighbor Policy #5-3	Good Neighbor Policy in Place and Followed for Manure Handling (NRCS - CNMP guidelines).	Contacts neighbors prior to manure application on fields adjacent to neighbor’s residence.	Occasionally contacts neighbors when applying manure to fields adjacent to neighbor’s residence.	No specific policy is in place for manure handling and/or notification of application dates.

SECTION 2 - FARMSTEAD MANAGEMENT

FARMSTEAD MANAGEMENT

GROUNDWATER

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
Well Conditions [Primary and Back-Up] <div style="text-align: right;">#1-10</div>	Casing height is >12 inches above grade And Site is not subject to flooding And Well casing appears to be properly grouted and properly capped.	Casing height is > 6 inches above grade And Site is not subject to flooding And Well casing appears to be properly grouted and properly capped.	Casing height is < 6 inches above grade Or Site has experienced flooding Or Well casing does not appear to be properly grouted, but no open space is visible between the casing and the drillhole and cap is loose or inappropriate.	Casing height is at or below grade (including in a pit or in a basement) Or Cap is missing Or Well casing has open space between the casing and the drillhole.
Position of Well in Relation to Potential Pollution Sources <div style="text-align: right;">#1-11</div>	Well(s) is upslope from potential pollution sources And No surface runoff from potential pollution sources reaches well.	Well(s) is at grade with potential pollution sources And Surface runoff from potential pollution sources is diverted to minimize potential for runoff to reach well.	Well(s) is at grade or down slope from potential pollution sources And Surface runoff from potential pollution sources could reach well.	Well is at grade or down slope from potential pollution sources And Settling or depression is visible near well casing.
Separation Distances between Well and Potential Pollution Sources <div style="text-align: right;">#1-12</div>	Separation distances meet or exceed Grade A Standards (50') (MDH Well Code) for properly grouted wells that have 50' of watertight casing or penetrate an impervious layer (clay) at least 10' thick.	Separation distances meet or exceed Grade A Standards (MDH Well Code) for poorly grouted wells.	Minimum separation distance is not met for one potential pollution source.	Minimum separation distances are not met for multiple potential pollution sources.

SECTION 2 - FARMSTEAD MANAGEMENT

GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
Backflow Prevention #1-13	Anti-backflow devices (such as vacuum breakers) are installed on <u>all faucets with hose connections</u>	Anti-backflow devices are installed on <u>all faucets with hose connections</u> Or An air gap is maintained	Anti-backflow devices are <u>not installed</u> on all faucets with hose connections Or <u>an air gap is not always maintained</u>	
Secondary or Back-up Well #1-13	There are no cross-connections between water supplies (wells).	Cross-connections between water supplies (wells) have adequate backflow prevention	Cross-connections between water supplies (wells) do not have adequate backflow prevention.	There are unprotected cross-connections between water supplies (wells).
Water Testing #1-14	Water quality is tested annually and bacteria, nitrate And Other tests consistently meet standards.	Water quality is tested every three years And Testing indicates only occasional deviation from standards for bacteria and nitrates.	Water quality testing more than three years ago And Bacteria and nitrate tests generally do not meet standards.	No water quality testing has been done Or Water is discolored after runoff noticeable changes in quality
Unused Well #1-15	No unused well or the unused well has been properly sealed and abandoned and documented on property title.	No unused well or unused well has been properly sealed and abandoned.		Unused well that has not been properly sealed and abandoned.
Farmstead & Facility Water Use #1-16	Water appropriations permits from DNR and MDA are current and allotment is used and water use is metered Or Water use is metered and is less than levels needing a permit	Water appropriations permits from DNR and MDA are current and actual allotment is not exceeded Or Water use is less than levels needing a permit	Site is permitted and exceeds allotment.	Site is not permitted And Exceeds 1M gals/year or 10,000 gals/day.

SECTION 2 - FARMSTEAD MANAGEMENT

SURFACE WATER - PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
Pesticide Container Storage <div style="text-align: right;">#1-21</div>	Pesticides stored in designated area in original containers clearly labeled And Floor of storage area provides relatively impermeable surface (i.e. concrete floor) which does not allow spills to soak into soil And Curb installed on floor to contain leaks and spills. Or Hires a licensed pesticide professional and has access to records. Or No pesticide containers are on site	Pesticides stored in designated area in original containers (some old containers with partially missing or hard to read labels) Or Floor of storage area somewhat impermeable surface (i.e. wooden floor) where spills could contaminate wood and/or soils.	Pesticides stored in designated area in original containers (some old containers missing labels and/or in poor condition) Or Floor of storage area is permeable surface (i.e. on the ground) where spills would soak into soil.	Pesticides stored in multiple locations (no designated area) Or Containers show signs of leakage.
Disposal of Pesticide Containers <div style="text-align: right;">#1-22</div>	Triple-rinsed containers returned to dealers or taken to licensed landfill or municipal incinerator Or Hires a licensed pesticide professional and has access to records.	Properly rinsed containers are stored on the farm.	Improperly rinsed containers are incinerated on the farm.	Pesticide containers disposed of on-farm or containers are not always triple-rinsed.
Expired, unusable or banned Pesticides <div style="text-align: right;">#1-23</div>	Participation in EPA banned pesticide buy-back program, if available, or hazardous waste contractor collection service used Or Hires a licensed pesticide professional and has access to records. Or Not on Site	Pesticides sold for restricted or general purposes used up or taken to licensed landfill or municipal incinerator.	Unusable or banned pesticide stored on farm.	Disposal of unused pesticides on farm or at local dump.
Pesticide Spill Plan <div style="text-align: right;">#1-24</div>	Written plan completed and distributed to all pertinent employees Or Hires a licensed pesticide professional and has access to records.	Written plan completed but not distributed to all pertinent employees.	No written plan in place.	No plan in place.

SECTION 2 - FARMSTEAD MANAGEMENT

SURFACE WATER - PETROLEUM MANAGEMENT

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
Location and Condition of Above-Ground Fuel Tank(s) #1-30	Tank is down slope or on grade with and more than 100 feet from surface water and well and sits on a concrete pad Or Tank has spill catchment basin capable of holding 125% of tank capacity.	Tank is upslope or at grade more than 100 feet from surface waters, well(s) and open tile intakes.	Tank is upslope more than 50 feet from surface waters, well(s) and open tile intakes.	Tank is upslope less than 50 feet from surface waters, well(s) and open tile intakes.
Location and Condition of Below-Ground Fuel Tank(s) #1-31	Tank is in soils that are identified as suitable per the NRCS soil survey And Tank is synthetic or has cathodic protection from rust (consistent with COMM 10 requirements)	Water table is rarely at tank level (flooding is rare) Or Tank is steel, less than 15 years old, and coated with paint or asphalt.	Water table occasionally reaches tank level (flooding occurs every few years) Or Tank is steel, more than 15 years old, and coated with paint or asphalt.	Water table is consistently at tank level; flooding occurs annually Or Tank is steel, more than 15 years old, and bare. Or Condition of tank is unknown.
Unused Below-Ground Fuel Tank(s) #1-32		Unused below-ground fuel tank was properly decommissioned using management plan of Fire Marshall or appropriate governmental authority		Unused below-ground fuel tank on site.
Petroleum Spill Plan #1-35	Written plan completed and distributed to all pertinent employees	Written plan completed but not distributed to all pertinent employees.	No written plan in place.	No plan in place.

SECTION 2 - FARMSTEAD MANAGEMENT

SURFACE WATER - HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
Paints, Stains, Thinners, and Solvents #1-40	Product used up and container recycled. Or Disposed of at waste collection site and recorded.	Disposal at approved site [HHW/VSQG].	Waste product and/or empty containers stored on farm.	Disposal on farm or at local dump.
Anti-Freeze #1-41	Filtered, checked and reused on farm Or Recycled at approved site [HHW/VSQG]	Disposal at municipal sewage treatment plant Or Disposed at approved site [HHW/VSQG]	Waste product and/or empty containers stored on farm.	Disposal on farm or at local dump.
Waste Oil #1-42	Taken to used oil collection tank for recycling and recorded Or Burned for heat in an approved residential incinerator and recorded.	Collected and disposed of at licensed landfill or municipal incinerator Or Reused on farm for non-motor lubrication and recorded	Waste oil stored in multiple containers on farm.	Disposal on farm or at local dump.
Batteries #1-43	Recycled and recorded.	Disposal at approved site. [HHW/VSQG]	Junk batteries stored on farm.	Disposal on farm or at local dump.
Tires #1-44	Recycled and recorded.	Disposal at approved site.	Stored on farm.	Disposal on farm or at local dump.
Fluorescent/HID Bulbs #1-45	Recycled through lamp retailer (most will accept for a fee) or at HHW/VSQG	Fluorescent/HID lamps are recycled as mandated by Minnesota law.	Stored on the farm	Disposal on farm or at local dump.

SECTION 2 - FARMSTEAD MANAGEMENT

LIVESTOCK FACILITIES

WATER QUALITY - MANURE AND FEED STORAGE MANAGEMENT

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
Feedlot Registration <div style="text-align: right;">#1-50</div>	Site registered And Current to less than 4-year period	Site registered And Registration current within a 4-year period	Site registered but registration not current within a four-year period	Site not registered where required
Feedlot Permit <div style="text-align: right;">#1-50</div>	If required, operator has feedlot permit or site has completed work required for an Interim permit	Site has required permit	Site has expired permit w/o completion of permitted corrective actions	Site has no permit and has discharges
Liquid Manure Storage Structure <div style="text-align: right;">#1-50</div>	Manure storage exceeds NRCS Standards 313 (i.e. sealed concrete walls/bottom or geomembrane overlaying clay liner or above ground slurry store tank, manure digester, perimeter monitoring wells, or multiple basins) And Certified by professional engineer	Manure storage meets NRCS Standards Or Storage structures not permitted at the time of construction which have been since certified as meeting MPCA requirements for unpermitted manure storage facilities.	Unpermitted in clay soils	Unpermitted in medium or coarse-textured soils
Liquid Manure Storage Structure: Operation and Maintenance <div style="text-align: right;">#1-50</div>	Records kept on #3 items and keep deep-rooted vegetation at least 10 feet away and liquid is at least one-foot down from top of berm	Keep berm area mowed and free of deep-rooted vegetation such as trees and shrubs And No evidence of overflows And Regular visual inspections	Structures in poor condition (due to tree roots, animal burrows, clay liner damage from agitation or erosion greater than 6" deep or with cracks in concrete structures > ¼" wide). And No evidence of overflows	Structures in poor condition (due to tree roots, animal burrows, clay liner damage from agitation or erosion greater than 6" deep or with cracks in concrete structures > ¼" wide). And Evidence of overflows

SECTION 3 - LIVESTOCK FACILITY

WATER QUALITY - MANURE AND FEED STORAGE MANAGEMENT

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
Stockpiled Manure Storage (permanent or temporary) #1-50	Manure storage exceeds 7020 requirements.	Manure storage meets 7020 requirements.	Does not meet 7020 requirements.	
Open Lot Runoff #1-51	Manure storage system and feedlots meet Level 1: Total Runoff Control as defined by NRCS Interim Conservation Practices Standard (code 313) for waste water and feedlot runoff control and includes clean water exclusion structures And All manure contaminated runoff is stored for land application to cropland.	Registered Site meets applicable Level 2, 3, 4 or 5 as defined by NRCS Interim Conservation Practices Standard (code 313) for waste water and feedlot runoff control. Level 2: Vegetated Infiltration Area – Pretreated Runoff Level 3: Controlled Discharge Vegetated Treatment Strip-Sunny day Release Level 4: Vegetated Treatment Strip <300AU Level 5: Vegetated Buffer Strip <1 acre Open Lot CAFO or operating with NPDES permit must meet NRCS Level 1	Manure storage system damaged or undersized and/or runoff controls are not likely to meet state standards Or Farm has been inspected by MPCA or CFO and is working to achieve compliance Or (if < 300 AU) Open Lot Agreement has been signed and progress toward reducing the potential for pollution by 50% is evident (e.g. clean water diversions, grass buffers, etc.). Or Site is operating under an interim permit or schedule of compliance	Manure storage system failure (overflow or other significant discharge) Producer must notify MPCA immediately. –State Requirement Or Few runoff controls are in place or controls are not functioning effectively and farm has not been evaluated by MPCA or CFO and Open Lot Agreement has not been signed
Clean-Water Diversion #1-52	Clean water runoff from buildings and surface runoff is diverted from entering open lots.	Some clean water runoff <u>from buildings</u> drains into the lot.	Some clean water runoff <u>from surface runoff</u> drains into the lot.	Clean water runoff from some <u>buildings and surface</u> runoff drains into the lot.

SECTION 3 - LIVESTOCK FACILITY

<p>Silage Storage</p> <p style="text-align: right;">#1-53</p>	<p>Cover tight fitting with no apparent leaks And <u>Concrete, asphalt, or compacted clay storage surface</u> is in good condition And Rain water drains away from storage to field or pasture and no leachate reaches surface waters.</p>	<p>Cover tight fitting with only minor leaks And Storage surface is in good condition And Rain water drains away from storage to field or pasture and no leachate reaches surface waters.</p>	<p>No cover or cover with many large leaks Or Storage surface is in poor condition Or Rain water and leachate pool near storage.</p>	<p>Storage surface is in very poor condition Or Rain water run-off and leachate drains to surface water body.</p>
<p>Feed Storage Area</p> <p style="text-align: right;">#1-54</p>	<p>Floor is clean and dry And Waste feed does not accumulate around feed storage area(s).</p>	<p>Floor is clean and dry And Minimal waste feed accumulation around feed storage area(s).</p>	<p>Floor is clean and dry And Substantial waste feed accumulation around storage area(s).</p>	<p>Floor is not clean and dry Or Significant amount of rotting waste feed has accumulated around storage area(s).</p>

WATER QUALITY - MINNFARM

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
<p>MinnFARM Index</p> <p style="text-align: right;">#1-51</p>	<p>Vegetative treatment area is 25 % greater than required to meet MinnFARM/FLEVAL Or Zero Discharge (i.e NPDES)</p>	<p>MinnFARM/FLEVAL rating meets State Regulations</p>	<p>MinnFARM rating does not meet state regulations</p>	

SECTION 3 - LIVESTOCK FACILITY

WATER QUALITY - WASTEWATER

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
<p>Milk House Waste Water is Discharged to:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">#1-60</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Manure Storage or other storage to be applied to cropland or pasture at agronomic rates</p> <p>Or</p> <p>A proven treatment system (including bark bed, aerobic treatment, lime flocculator, etc.) and treatment system is managed and operated according to design and operation guidelines.</p>	<p>Short-term storage before being applied to cropland or to “constructed wetland” at rates less than 54,000 gallons per acre per week</p> <p>Or</p> <p>If <300 animal units and Open Lot Agreement is in place and greater than 50% progress documented-</p> <p>Milking Center waste water may be applied to surface that drains into cropland or perennial vegetation and receives treatment with no evidence that runoff flows into surface waters or discharge to tile.</p> <p>(No discharge to waters of the state. Includes but not limited to Lakes, Stream, Drainage Ditches, Road Ditches, Wetlands)</p>	<p>Surface that drains into cropland or perennial vegetation with significant potential for ultimate discharge into surface waters.</p>	<p>Uncontrolled discharge to unknown location or discharge directly or indirectly to surface waters.</p>
<p>Facility Waste water</p>	<p>Wastewater is contained and use/disposed of properly</p>	<p>Water meets wastewater disposal methods</p>	<p>Wastewater is not disposed of properly</p>	<p>Wastewater is discharged directly to water body.</p>
<p>Septic System (business facility only)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">#1-8</p>		<p>Septic tanks are pumped at least every three years</p> <p>And</p> <p>Septic system has been certified.</p>	<p>Septic System tanks are pumped every three years And No direct discharges, surface ponding or backup occurs</p>	<p>Septic tanks are pumped less frequently than every three years.</p> <p>Or It is directly discharged, surface ponding or back-up occurs</p>

SECTION 3 - LIVESTOCK FACILITY

ODOR AND AIR QUALITY – MANURE STORAGE

Manure Stockpiles #1-50	4	3	2	1
Visibility from Road	Manure stockpile(s) cannot be seen from the road.	Manure stockpile(s) can be seen from road but are more than 300' away.	Manure stockpile(s) can be seen from the road and are within 300'.	Manure stockpile(s) are visible from the road.
Proximity to Neighbors	Manure stockpile exceeds state and local setbacks and can't be seen from neighbor's residence.	Manure stockpile meets or exceeds state and local setback requirements.	Manure stockpile is not in compliance with local setback requirement.	Manure stockpile is not in compliance with State setback requirement.
Runoff from Storage	Seepage and/or runoff from storage pile does not pool at base of pile or drain to surface waters.	Seepage and/or runoff from storage pile generally does not pool at base of pile and does not drain to surface waters.	Seepage and/or runoff from storage pile commonly pools at base of pile.	Seepage and/or runoff from storage pile has significant potential to drain to surface waters.
Composting Stockpiles (Bedding) #2-35	Compost piles are turned and mixed to maintain consistent heat to kill weed seeds and pests	Compost piles are managed to maintain adequate heat and composting rates	Compost pile are turned infrequent causing undesirable odors	Compost pile is never turned
Liquid Manure Storage #2-41,42	4	3	2	1
Crust/cover on Anaerobic Storage #2-41,42	Crust/cover established over 75% or more of surface	Crust established over 50% or more of surface area	Crust established over 25% or more of surface area.	Crust established on less than 25% of surface area
Aerobic Storage Structure	Proper aeration resulting in little or no odor	Inadequate aeration resulting in some odor	Poor aeration or excess solids content results in odor.	Little or no aeration and high solids content resulting in significant odor
Visibility of Storage Structure and Vegetative Barrier #2-22	Manure storage contents not visible from road Or Vegetative barrier provides odor control between storage and neighbors or roadway.	Manure storage contents visible but not prominent Or Vegetative odor control barrier established but not yet mature.	Storage visibly prominent from road Or Vegetative barrier is in decline or in a less than ideal location relative to neighbors and the road.	Storage is visibly prominent And No vegetative barrier exists.

SECTION 3 - LIVESTOCK FACILITY

ODOR AND AIR QUALITY – Livestock Mortality

Livestock Mortality	4	3	2	1
<p>Mortality Management</p> <p style="text-align: right;">#2-60</p>	<p>All animal mortalities, including cows, are composted immediately using recommended methods, and the composting facility meets all setback requirements, and operator has met the Minnesota Board of Animal Health requirements, and resulting compost is properly land applied</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Rendering service generally picks up within 3 days during the summer.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Refrigerated storage is used.</p>	<p>Calves and smaller animals are composted using recommended methods, and the composting facility meets all setback requirements, and the resulting compost is properly land applied,</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Mortalities are picked up by a rendering facility within 72 hours.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Meets County Feedlot Standards</p>	<p>Mortalities are buried or incinerated on-farm</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Mortalities are picked up by a rendering facility within one week.</p>	<p>Some mortalities not properly composted, buried, incinerated, or sent for rendering within one week.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Take carcasses “out back”</p>

SECTION 3 - LIVESTOCK FACILITY

ODOR AND AIR QUALITY – LIVESTOCK HOUSING EXTERIOR & LOTS

RATING: LIST HOUSING and OPEN LOTS:	A. Parameter	B. Drainage	C. Feed Areas	D. Lot Surface	E. Veg. barrier	F. Odor Red.	AVERAGE
-							
-							
-							
-							
-							
-							
Note: Low Score on List is recorded on this line and used for Overall Rating-							

SECTION 3 - LIVESTOCK FACILITY

ODOR AND AIR - LIVESTOCK HOUSING EXTERIOR AND LOTS

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
A. Parameter	No manure or feed accumulates around building.	Limited amounts of manure and/or feed accumulates around building (no rotting manure/feed –short-term).	Manure and/or feed accumulates around building (some rotting manure/feed – long-term).	Significant amounts of manure and/or feed has accumulated around building.
B. Drainage	Good drainage away from building eliminates puddling near the foundation.	Some puddling occurs near foundation.	Surface drainage away from building needs improvement - puddling commonly occurs near foundation.	Surface water drains toward building.
C. Feed Areas	Feed area cleaned daily, no waste feed present.	Feed area cleaned every other day, no waste feed buildup.	Feed area cleaned once a week, some waste feed accumulates.	Feed area cleaned less than once a week, waste feed buildup evident.
D. Surface and Slope of Lot	Concrete surface in good condition Or Lot is evenly sloped, no ponding of water in lot.	Concrete surface in fair condition or Dirt surface in good condition Or Lot is generally level or evenly sloped with limited ponding in lot.	Dirt surface in poor condition Or Lot has some areas where ponding commonly occurs.	Dirt surface in very poor condition Or Lot has several holes, pits, or depressions where ponding occurs.
E. Vegetative Barrier* *only if within ¼ mile of neighboring residence or within 200' of road #2-22	A dense shelterbelt (or other vegetative barrier) or buildings exists between the open lot and neighboring residence or road which blocks view of the lot.	A shelterbelt (or other vegetative barrier) or buildings partially blocks view of the lot.	A shelterbelt (or other vegetative barrier) exists but is in decline, or poorly maintained, or in a less than ideal location relative to neighbors and the highway.	No vegetative barrier exists.
F. Odor Reduction #2-23	Structures such as manure digesters, bio-filters are employed or alternative structures and/or practices are being demonstrated in cooperation with research entity.	N/A Or Operator has implemented odor reduction strategies on their own.		

SECTION 3 - LIVESTOCK FACILITY

ODOR AND AIR QUALITY – LIVESTOCK HOUSING INTERIOR

RATING:	A. Floors	B. Stalls/Pens	C. Feed Area		AVERAGE
LIST HOUSING:					
-					
-					
-					
-					
-					
-					
Note: Low Score on List is recorded on this line and used for Overall Rating-					

ODOR AND AIR – Livestock Housing - Interior

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
A. Floors	No manure buildup in corners	Little manure buildup in corners	Some manure buildup in corners	Manure buildup evident.
B. Stalls and Pens	Stalls and/or pens cleaned or stay clean regularly.	Stalls and/or pens cleaned daily.	Stalls and/or pens not cleaned daily and/or do not stay clean regularly.	Stalls and/or pens cleaned twice a week and/or are not clean.
C. Feed Area	Feed area cleaned daily, no waste feed present.	Feed area cleaned every other day, no waste feed buildup.	Feed area cleaned once a week, some waste feed accumulates.	Feed area cleaned less than once a week, waste feed buildup evident.

SECTION 3 - LIVESTOCK FACILITY

ODOR AND AIR – Animal Cleanliness

RATING: LIST HOUSING and OPEN LOTS:	A	B	C	D	E	F	AVERAGE
-							
-							
-							
-							
-							
-							
Note: Low Score on List is recorded on this line and used for Overall Rating-							

ODOR AND AIR – Animal Cleanliness

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
A. Tie or Stanchion Barn #2-1	Cow Cleanliness scores average <2.5.	Cow Cleanliness scores average <3.	Cow Cleanliness scores average <4.	Cow Cleanliness scores average >4.
B. Free-stall or compost barn	Cow Cleanliness scores average <2.5.	Cow Cleanliness scores average <3.	Cow Cleanliness scores average <4.	Cow Cleanliness scores average >4.
C. Bedding Pack or Mono-slope	Cow Cleanliness scores average <3.	Cow Cleanliness scores average <3.5.	Cow Cleanliness scores average <4.	Cow Cleanliness scores average >4.
D. Open Lots	Cow Cleanliness scores average <3.	Cow Cleanliness scores average <3.5.	Cow Cleanliness scores average <4.	Cow Cleanliness scores average >4.
E. Calf Housing	Calf Cleanliness scores average <2.5.	Calf Cleanliness scores average <3.	Calf Cleanliness scores average <4.	Calf Cleanliness scores average >4.
F. Confined Barns	Livestock Cleanliness is industry exceptional	Livestock Cleanliness is industry acceptable	Livestock in not clean	

SECTION 3 - LIVESTOCK FACILITY

ANIMAL ENVIRONMENT and CARE:	Result
<i>Animal environment and care section is not required for the LEQA score and is listed so that producers are made aware of their industry-developed assessments and to show how it may relate to a LEQA assurance process.</i>	Pass/No Pass
Dairy - Farmers Assuring Responsible Management	
National Pork Board - PQAplus	
National Turkey Federation - Animal Care BMPs	
National Chicken Council - Animal Welfare Guidelines	
United Egg Producers - Animal Husbandry Guidelines	
Note: No Animal Environment and Care scores are accounted for in the LEQA	---

SECTION 4 - FIELDS & PASTURES MANAGEMENT

FIELDS & PASTURES MANAGEMENT

SOIL QUALITY

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
Wind and Water Erosion #3-1	Soil loss rates are below soil tolerance levels on all fields and soil conservation practices are established on all fields where soil slopes exceed 2 percent.	Soil loss rates are at or below soil tolerance levels on all fields.	Soil loss rates are above the soil tolerance level but at an Alternative Conservation System level to meet Food Security Act compliance requirements on HEL fields.	Soil loss rates are not controlled, are above the soil tolerance level and do not meet an Alternative Conservation Systems level on HEL fields.
Gully Erosion (including seasonal gullies) #3-2	All gully erosion sites are controlled with no active gully erosion present.	Gully erosion sites are controlled but sometimes control methods fail.	Gully erosion sites have minimal control and often control methods fail.	Gully erosion sites are not controlled.
Pasture Grazing Management #3-4	Pastures are grazed to maintain vegetation of at height of 4 inches and provide rest periods to provide regrowth for plant vigor	Pastures are grazed to maintain a vegetated cover of more than 95 per cent	Pastures are grazed to less than 90 per cover.	Overgrazing has resulted in significant erosion (multiple areas of pasture show evidence of overgrazing or erosion).
Pasture Vegetation Management #3-4	Pastures are managed for a mix of legumes and grasses and are well distributed with few or no weeds (were site conditions allow)	Pastures have few or no weeds	Pastures are dominated by weeds	Pastures are dominated by single species along with invasive or weedy species
Pasture Productivity Management #3-4	Pasture productivity is monitored for forage removal rates and records maintained	Pastures are used as an area for cattle to eat and loaf	Pastures are not considered a productive aspect of the farm operation	
Supplemental Feeding Areas #3-5	Feeding Areas are seasonally planned to prevent excessive manure packs, erosion rates and are rested one full growing season. Emergency feeding areas are identified. And meets 528	Feeding areas are rotated according to size of herd and size of feeding areas to meet MinnFARM/Fleval standards or meets 528	Feeding areas are used as long-term sites in less sensitive areas	Feeding areas are used as long-term sites in sensitive water management areas.

SECTION 4 - FIELDS & PASTURES MANAGEMENT

SOIL QUALITY CONT.

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
Winter Feeding Areas <div style="text-align: right;">#3.5</div>	Set-backs and manure criteria are followed and sacrificial pastures are used for winter feeding areas and feeding areas are rotated and renovated in the spring.	Setbacks, manure criteria and rotational guidance is followed to allow vegetation to be maintain during the growing season	Winter feeding areas are not rotated and manure prevents vegetation from growing during growing season and is considered a feedlot	
Conservation Cropping System <div style="text-align: right;">#1-5 #3-6</div>	A minimum of 30% surface cover remain after planting annual crops on 2/3 rd or more of the rotation Or Perennial forage make up more than ½ of the rotation. Or Strip cropping.	Two or more crops within a 3-year period are included in the rotation to improve crop diversity for soil health, pest management and erosion control.	A minimum of 20% surface cover remain after planting annual crops on 2/3 rd or more of the rotation.	Less than 20% surface cover remain after planting annual crops on 2/3 rd or more of the rotation.
SWETs	SWET soil score is ≥ 50	SWET soil score is < 50 , but ≥ 42 .	SWET water score is ≥ 35 but < 42	SWET water score is < 35

SECTION 4 - FIELDS & PASTURES MANAGEMENT

SURFACE WATER QUALITY - NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
Nutrient Management Plan <small>#3-20, #3-30</small>	NRCS Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan completed, current, and implemented.	MPCA Manure Management Plan completed and current (Required if >300AU).	Manure Management Plan being developed.	No Manure Management Plan.
Record Keeping <small>#3-30</small>	Manure application records kept in accordance with MPCA requirements	Manure and fertilizer application records kept in accordance with MPCA requirements & reviewed annually to determine application rates. (Required if >100AU)	Manure application records are current on some but not all fields.	Records are not kept in accordance with MPCA requirements. And No current records available.
Soil Testing <small>#3-30</small>	Standard soil tests are current (<3 years old) on all crop fields.	Standard soil tests are recent (< or = to 4 years old) on all crop fields receiving manure	Standard soil tests are outdated (> 5 years old) on some fields.	Soil test results are not available.
Manure Testing <small>#3-30</small>	Manure is tested bi-annually.	Manure tests are recent (< 4years old) for all major sources of manure and for new manure sources testing is completed for the first 3 years.	Manure tests are outdated (> 5 years old) for some major sources of manure.	Manure test results are not available.
Manure Spreader Calibration <small>#3-32</small>	Manure spreader or applicator calibrated for all major manure sources and manure spreading is even across fields.	Manure spreader or applicator calibrated for most major manure sources.	Manure spreader or applicator calibrated for major manure source.	Manure spreader or applicator not calibrated or uneven spreading patterns.
Nutrient Application Rates <small>#3-30</small>	Manure is applied at rates and frequencies that prevent long-term build-up of soil test P on fields where U of M recommended levels have been exceeded. Or The University of Minnesota's P Index values are in the low risk category.	Nitrogen rates follow U of M Extension nitrogen application rate guidelines, including credits for previous legume crops and manure applications on <u>all</u> fields.	Nitrogen rates are within 20% of U of M Extension nitrogen application rate guidelines, including credits for previous legume crops and manure applications on 75% of fields.	Nitrogen rates exceed U of M Extension nitrogen application rate guidelines, including credits for previous legume crops and manure applications, by more than 20% on most fields.

SECTION 4 - FIELDS & PASTURES MANAGEMENT

SURFACE WATER QUALITY - LAND APPLICATION METHOD

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
<p>Perennial and Intermittent Streams*</p> <p>* Note: consideration for vegetative buffers.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">#3-35</p>	<p>Follows NRCS recommended phosphorus management practices and incorporates manure on all land that slopes toward streams (even if >300').</p>	<p>Within 25 feet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No application, and <p>Within 300 feet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Injects or incorporates manure within 24 hrs. ✓ Manages phosphorus to prevent long-term build-up of soil P ✓ No winter application ✓ No application by irrigation. <p>- State Requirements*</p>	<p>Nearly meets minimum state requirements.</p>	<p>Does not meet minimum state requirements.</p>
<p>Lakes and Wetlands*</p> <p>* Note: State Requirements apply to Public Waters which include wetlands generally >10 acres in size considered by DNR as Protected Wetlands as noted on Page 1.. Also note consideration is given for vegetative buffers.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">#3-35</p>	<p>Follows NRCS recommended phosphorus management practices and incorporates manure on all land that slopes toward lakes and all wetlands (even if >300' away).</p>	<p>Within 25 feet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No application, and <p>Within 300 feet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Injects or incorporates within 24 hours ✓ Manages P to prevent long-term build-up ✓ No winter application ✓ No app. by irrigation. <p>-State Requirements*</p>	<p>Nearly meets minimum state requirements.</p>	<p>Does not meet minimum state requirements.</p>
<p>Drainage Ditches without protective berms or with side inlet with berms</p> <p style="text-align: right;">#3-35</p>	<p>Follows NRCS recommended phosphorus management practices and manure incorporation recommendations on all land that slopes toward a drainage ditch that is not protected by adequate berm (even on land >300' from such a ditch).</p>	<p>Within 25 feet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No application, and <p>Within 300 feet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Injects or incorporates within 24 hours ✓ Manages phosphorus to prevent long-term build-up of soil P ✓ No winter application ✓ No application by irrigation 	<p>Nearly meets minimum state requirements.</p> <p>*Note: consideration given for vegetative buffers along drainage ditches.</p>	<p>Does not meet minimum state requirements.</p>

SECTION 4 - FIELDS & PASTURES MANAGEMENT

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
<p>Open Tile Intakes</p> <p style="text-align: right;">#3-35</p>	Follows NRCS recommended phosphorus management practices and manure incorporation recommendations on all land that slopes toward an open tile intakes.	<p>Within 300 feet:</p> <p>✓ Inject or incorporate manure within 24 hours.</p> <p>-State Requirement*</p>	Nearly meets minimum state requirements.	Does not meet minimum state requirements.
<p>Steeply Sloping Land*</p> <p>*Note: if > 300 animal units, an interim feedlot permit is needed to regularly apply manure to steeply sloping land (>6%) within 300 feet of lakes, streams, drainage ditches,</p> <p>- State Requirement</p> <p style="text-align: right;">#3-35</p>	<p>Follows NRCS recommended phosphorus management practices and manure incorporation recommendations on steeply sloping land.</p> <p>*No application on frozen, thawing, or snow-covered land with >15% slope.</p> <p>*No application where gully erosion is not controlled.</p>	<p>No application on ground where gully erosion is not controlled</p> <p>And</p> <p>Controls sheet and rill erosion to less than 6 tons per acre per year on slopes where manure is applied.</p> <p>And</p> <p>Avoids winter application (unless contour tillage).</p>	<p>Applies manure to land where sheet and rill erosion are not controlled to less than 6 tons per acre per year.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Applies manure in winter to steeply sloping land that is not farmed on the contour.</p>	Manure is applied to field without appropriate setback resulting in manure applied to ditch
<p>Road Ditches</p> <p style="text-align: right;">#3-35</p>	Follows NRCS recommended practices for manure incorporation on land within 300' of road ditches.	<p>No manure application directly into road ditches.</p> <p>- State Requirement</p>	Nearly meets minimum state requirements.	Does not meet minimum state requirements.
<p>Annually Flooded Soils</p> <p style="text-align: right;">#3-35</p>	No manure application on annually flooded soils.	<p>No manure application during prone flooding periods</p> <p>And</p> <p>When ground is frozen, snow-covered, or actively thawing.</p>	<p>Occasionally applies manure to frequently flooded soils during peak flooding periods</p> <p>Or</p> <p>To frozen, snow-covered, or actively thawing soils.</p>	<p>Regularly applies manure to frequently flooded soils</p> <p>And</p> <p>To frozen, snow-covered, or actively thawing soils.</p>

SECTION 4 - FIELDS & PASTURES MANAGEMENT

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
Frozen Soils	No manure application on frozen, snow-covered, or actively thawing soils.	No manure application when ground is frozen, snow-covered or actively thawing on slopes greater than 5 %.	Occasionally applies manure to frozen, snow-covered, or actively thawing soils on slopes greater than 8%.	Regularly applies manure to frozen, snow-covered, or actively thawing soils regardless of slope.
High Water Table Soils #3-35	Maintain at least a 24 inch separation between applied manure and seasonal high water table mark.	Selects fields for application to maximize separation between manure and water table.	Occasionally applies manure to high- water-table soils.	Commonly applies manure to high water table soil.
High Phosphorus Soils (>21 ppm Bray or 16 ppm Olsen) #3-35	Follows NRCS “Field Phosphorus Loss Assessment Guidelines” and recommended practices for manure application on high phosphorus soils.	If <300 feet from lakes, streams, protected wetlands, or drainage ditches the rate and frequency of manure application must not allow long-term build-up of soil P over any six-year period. – State Requirement	Nearly meets minimum state requirements. *Note: If soil P tests >75 Bray or >60 Olsen and if feedlot >300 animal units, an interim permit is required for manure application within 300 feet of protected waters –State Requirement	Does not meet minimum state requirements. *Note: If soil P test > 150 Bray or > 120 Olsen and if feedlot >300 animal units, an interim permit is required for manure application. –State Requirement
Wells and Wellhead Protection Areas (MDH) #3-35	Follows recommended voluntary practices for application on land which slopes toward wells & WPA (divert surface water, fall applications, immediate incorporation).	No application within 50 feet of well. - State Requirement* *NOTE: Detailed records required if >100 animal units, and an interim permit required if >300 animal units in drinking water supply management areas that have been designated as vulnerable.	Nearly meets minimum state requirements.	Does not meet minimum state requirements.

SECTION 4 - FIELDS & PASTURES MANAGEMENT

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
Sinkholes #3-35	Diverts field runoff from entering sinkholes and/or has established vegetative buffer upslope of all known sinkholes on farm.	No manure application within 50 feet of edge of sink holes and inject or immediately incorporate within 300 feet on the upslope side of sinkholes -State Requirement	Nearly meets minimum state requirements.	Does not meet minimum state requirements.
Coarse Textured Soils #3-35	Avoids fall application until soil temperature at 6" depth is below 50°F and no commercial nitrogen application.	Meets all nitrogen rate limits as prescribed by current state requirements. -State Requirement	Nearly meets minimum state requirements.	Does not meet minimum state requirements.
Shallow Soils over Bedrock #3-35	Avoids fall application until soil temperature at 6" depth is below 50°F and areas with less than 24" of soil above bedrock and no commercial nitrogen application.	Meets all nitrogen rate limits as prescribed by current state requirements. -State Requirement	Nearly meets minimum state requirements.	Does not meet minimum state requirements.
Mines and Quarries #3-35	Manure is incorporated within 24 hours on areas within 300' upslope, or, water is diverted, or, vegetative buffer strips are planted.	No manure application within 50 feet of edge of quarry or mine. -State Requirement	Nearly meets minimum state requirements.	Does not meet minimum state requirements.

SECTION 4 - FIELDS & PASTURES MANAGEMENT

SURFACE WATER QUALITY - PEST MANAGEMENT

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
Certified Pesticide Applicators License (if applying restricted use pesticides) #1-20	Owner is a licensed certified applicator Or Hires a licensed custom applicator.			Owner applies pesticides and is not a licensed certified applicator.
Pest Management Plan #1-25	Conducts the following IPM activities (or hires a licensed pesticide professional) that incorporates scouting to determine application timing, biological controls are used when applicable, spot spraying and/or banding is used to target pests.	Follows label requirements and rates and is documented. Or Hires a licensed pesticide professional and has access to records.	Follows label requirements but not rates.	Does not follow label requirements and rates.

SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT - SWETw

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
SWETw #1-16	SWET water score is ≥ 75 and score meets a 'Yes' in each water subcategory.	SWET water score is ≥ 65 , but < 75 and score meets a 'Yes' in each water subcategory	SWET water score is ≥ 50 but < 65	SWET water score is < 50

GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
Irrigation #1-16	DNR & MDA permits current and abided by. Irrigation is managed to avoid water losses through runoff, evaporation or deep percolation, to avoid nutrients and pesticides from impacting surface and ground waters, and monitors salinity levels to reduce negative impacts and flow metered.	Irrigation management meets the permit requirements and is metered.	Irrigation is conducted within water use permits, but is applied during times of high evaporation rates	Irrigation is conducted outside the permit requirements Or No permit is used.

SECTION 4 - FIELDS & PASTURES MANAGEMENT

ODOR AND AIR - LAND APPLICATION

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
<p>Application Method</p> <p style="text-align: right;">#2-50</p>	<p>Surface application of dry or heavily bedded solid manure</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Immediate incorporation of wet solid manure</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Surface application of digested manure</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Subsurface injection of slurry manure.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Proper pasture application</p> <p>And</p> <p>All Land within 300 feet of Sensitive areas must be incorporated within 24 hours or have buffers.</p>	<p>Same day incorporation of wet solid manure</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Surface application of slurry manure followed by same day incorporation</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Surface application with drop hose applicator or aerator</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Spray irrigation of top water from aerobic lagoon with low-pressure nozzles below crop canopy or diluted with 3 parts or greater fresh water to 1 part lagoon water.</p> <p>And</p> <p>All Land within 300 feet of Sensitive areas must be incorporated within 24 hours or have buffers.</p>	<p>Incorporation within 48 hours of wet solid manure</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Surface application of slurry manure followed by incorporation within 48 hours</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Spray irrigation of top water from aerobic lagoon with low-pressure nozzles above the crop canopy or on bare ground or with less than 3 parts water to 1 part lagoon water.</p>	<p>Surface application of stored slurry manure or wet solid manure without incorporation</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Spray irrigation of top water from aerobic lagoon with high pressure nozzles or guns.</p>

SECTION 5 - FOREST & WOODED AREA MANAGEMENT

FOREST/WOODED AREA MANAGEMENT

Topic + Rating	4	3	2	1
A. Woodlot Management #4-4	Woodlot managed under DNR Forestry Management Plan or similar And/or No livestock access.	Livestock access managed by fencing.	Livestock has free access to woodlot.	
B. Shelterbelt Management #4-5	Shelterbelt is a mix of trees and shrubs, with two or more outside shrub rows and at least one row of conifers on the inside And No livestock access.	Shelterbelt is a mix of trees and shrubs, with two or more outside shrub rows and at least one row of conifers on the inside And Access for livestock is managed to control overgrazing.		
C. Field Windbreak Management #4-5	Windbreak is a mix of trees and shrubs in multiple rows.	Windbreak is herbaceous consisting of at least 40 feet wide.		
D. Forest Stewardship Plan	A DNR-approved Forest Stewardship Plan has been developed and fully implemented.	A DNR-approved Forest Stewardship Plan has been developed and partially implemented.		

For more information about
Livestock Environmental Quality Assurance
or other resource management programs and resources

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