

ROCK COUNTY SWCD / LAND MGT

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Presentation Goals

- WHAT IS ROCK COUNTY SWCD/LAND MGT
- ROCK COUNTY FEEDLOT INVENTORY PROCESS
- LANDOWNER REACTIONS
- HOW DID FIXES HAPPEN
- WHERE DID FUNDING COME FROM
- WHAT WORKED WELL AND WHAT DIDN'T



And hopefully you find this interesting!

Rock County SWCD/Land Mgt

- ▶ Joint Powers Agreement between Rock County and Rock SWCD initiated in 1996
- ▶ Answers to the Rock SWCD Board and Rock County Board of Commissioners
- ▶ A liaison committee of 2 SWCD and 2 County board members address concerns or issues
- ▶ Staff are county employees on county pay scale with county benefits

Rock County SWCD / Land Mgt

- ▶ Staff
 - Director–*Eric Hartman*
 - Asst Director–*Doug Bos*
 - GIS Technician–*Arlyn Gehrke*
 - Program Technician–*Justin Decker*
 - Office Mgrs–*Denise Severtson/Mary Thompson*
- ▶ Engineering
 - Southwest Prairies TSA–*Russ Hoogendoorn*

Assistance vs Enforcement

- ▶ Is it possible to wear a black hat and a white hat?
 - Much easier to have assistance available to fix problems
 - We can offer both Financial and Technical Assistance
 - Many of us already administer WCA
- ▶ Will producers be more hesitant to come in?
 - We have had more producers come in to ask “What if” questions
- ▶ What about MPCA feedlot delegation?
 - Can provide needed funding

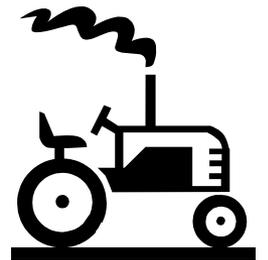
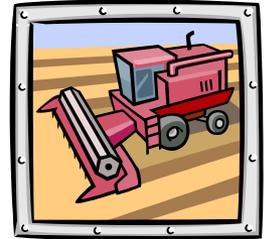
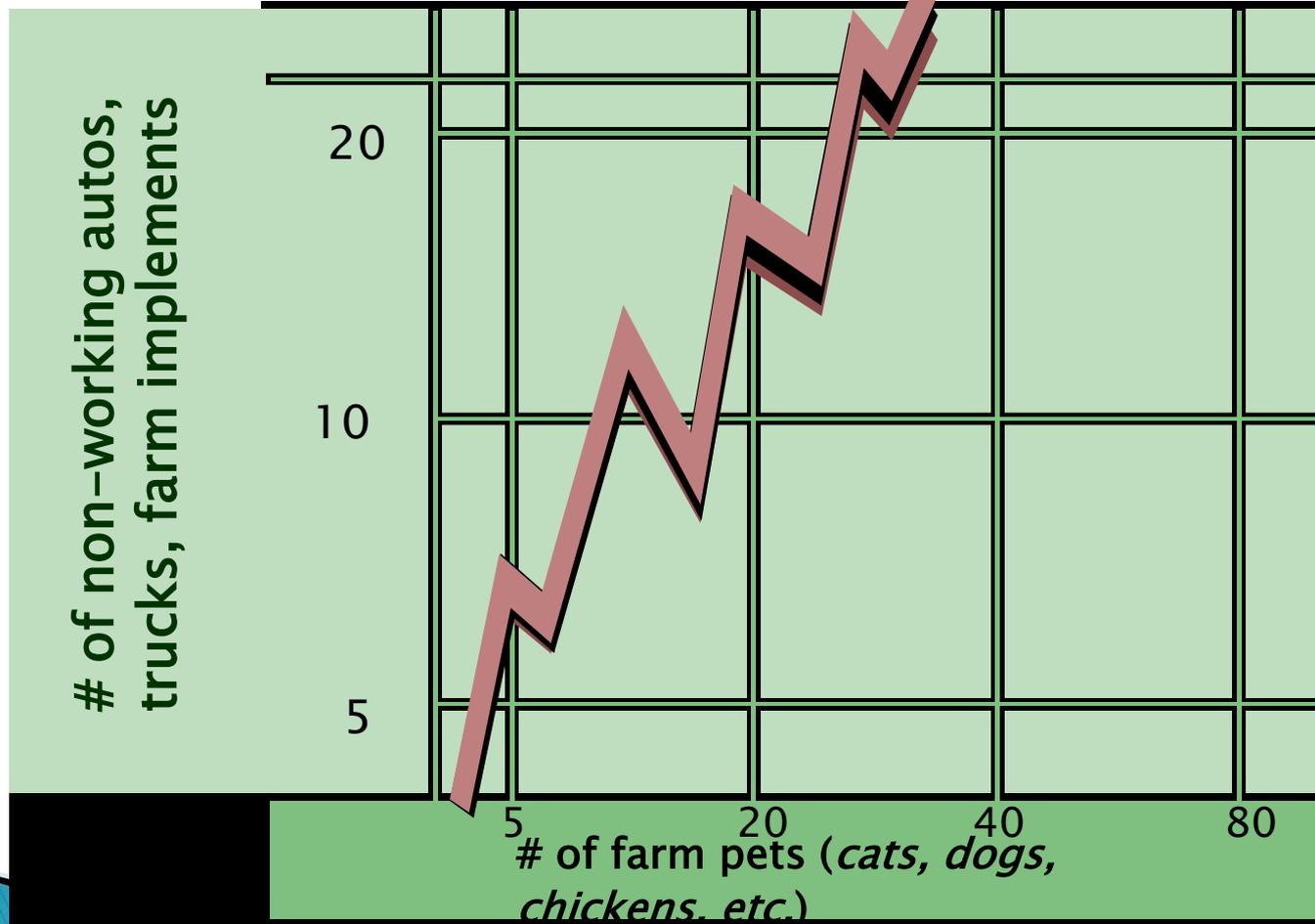
Why Assist Feedlots??

- ▶ Increases visibility
 - Connects you with more producers
- ▶ Increases capacity
 - Increases your knowledge base and experience
- ▶ Helps local economy
 - Livestock dollars generate 7x in communities
- ▶ Compliments conservation practices we promote
 - We can offer complete producer assistance
- ▶ Helps your producers
 - Operations can be improved *and* benefit the environment

Rock County Feedlot Inventory

- ▶ **June 18, 2002 M of U completed between the Rock County Board and the MPCA.**
 - *Delegated County Feedlot Program Workplan*
 - *Communications Plan (Newsletters, Public Meetings, Education, Radio, etc.)*
 - *Quarterly meetings amongst MPCA, BWSR, Rock County*
 - *Level III Inventory Plan*
- ▶ **July 18, 2002 Level III Feedlot Inventory Info Meeting**
 - *Attended by 325 very concerned farmers*
- ▶ **July 2002 – October 2004**
 - *Conducted Level III Inspections for 655 feedlots township by township*
 - *Two staff at 40% time*

Wisdom through experience



Rock County Feedlot Inventory

- ▶ 655 Feedlots Visited
- ▶ 128 Feedlots Had Issues as of Dec 2004
- ▶ 47 Feedlots signed an Open Lot Agreement
- ▶ Of the original Level III Feedlots
 - 3 Open Lot Agreements to fix
 - 2 with partial fixes
 - 3 Interim Permits to complete
 - 1 with partial fix

Rock County Feedlot Fixes

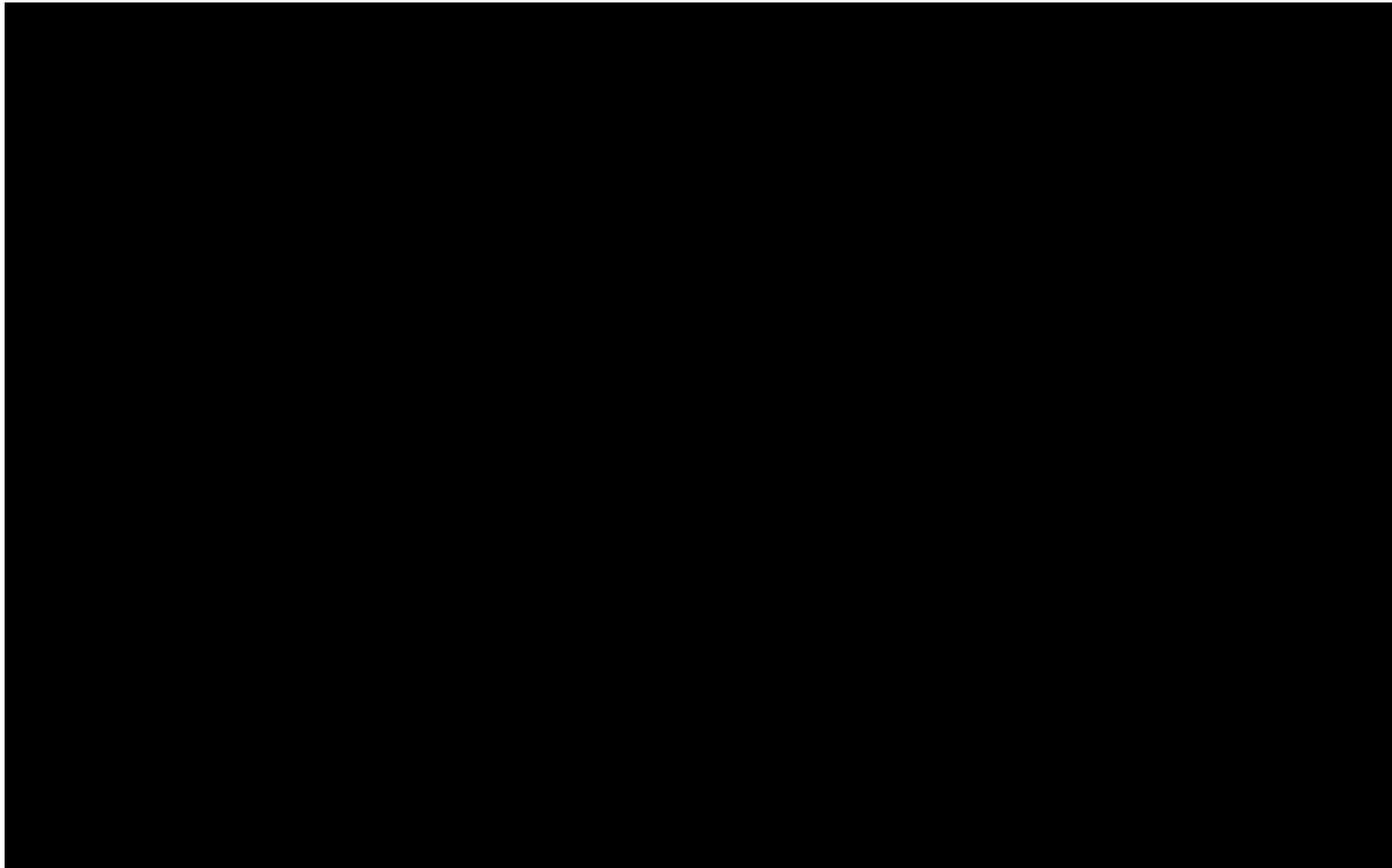
- ▶ **38 Appealed** and proven by ground truthing
 - 32 Accepted and re-registered
- ▶ **56 Feedlots Low Cost Fix**
 - 6 Closed
 - Fences moved, some lots closed, grass buffers
 - \$500–\$5,000 cost range
 - Local technical assistance along with SW Prairie TSA Engineering

Rock County Feedlot Fixes

▶ 28 Feedlots with Major Fixes

- Roof structures, pits, settling basins and filter strips
- SW Prairie TSA Engineering
- \$10,000–\$330,000 cost range
- 20 utilized cost share
 - State of MN – \$480,550.00
 - EQIP – \$415,805.00
 - EQIP Engineering Assistance – \$40,000

What Worked & What Didn't



Developed a new enforcement tool

Keys to Success

- ▶ **Communication (most important)**
 - Call before site inspection
 - Discuss compliance problems in person before sending notice
- ▶ **Finding a Solution**
 - Bring all players to the table (engineering, zoning, permitting)
 - Ask questions, **listen**
 - Offer options, let producer offer options

Keys to Success

- ▶ **Follow through (a must)**
 - Be **persistent**, stay in contact, call or visit monthly
 - Have **patience** , allow *some* time
 - Continue to **communicate**
- ▶ **When operator refuses or stonewalls**
 - Communicate with
 - SWCD and County Board, County Attorney
 - MPCA
 - Producer

Make it Happen!

▶ Take the Lead

- Someone needs to **facilitate** (help the producer through the governmental maze)
- Communicate, **communicate**, communicate (phone calls, letters, permits, ect)
- **Patient persistence**
 - Do not give up

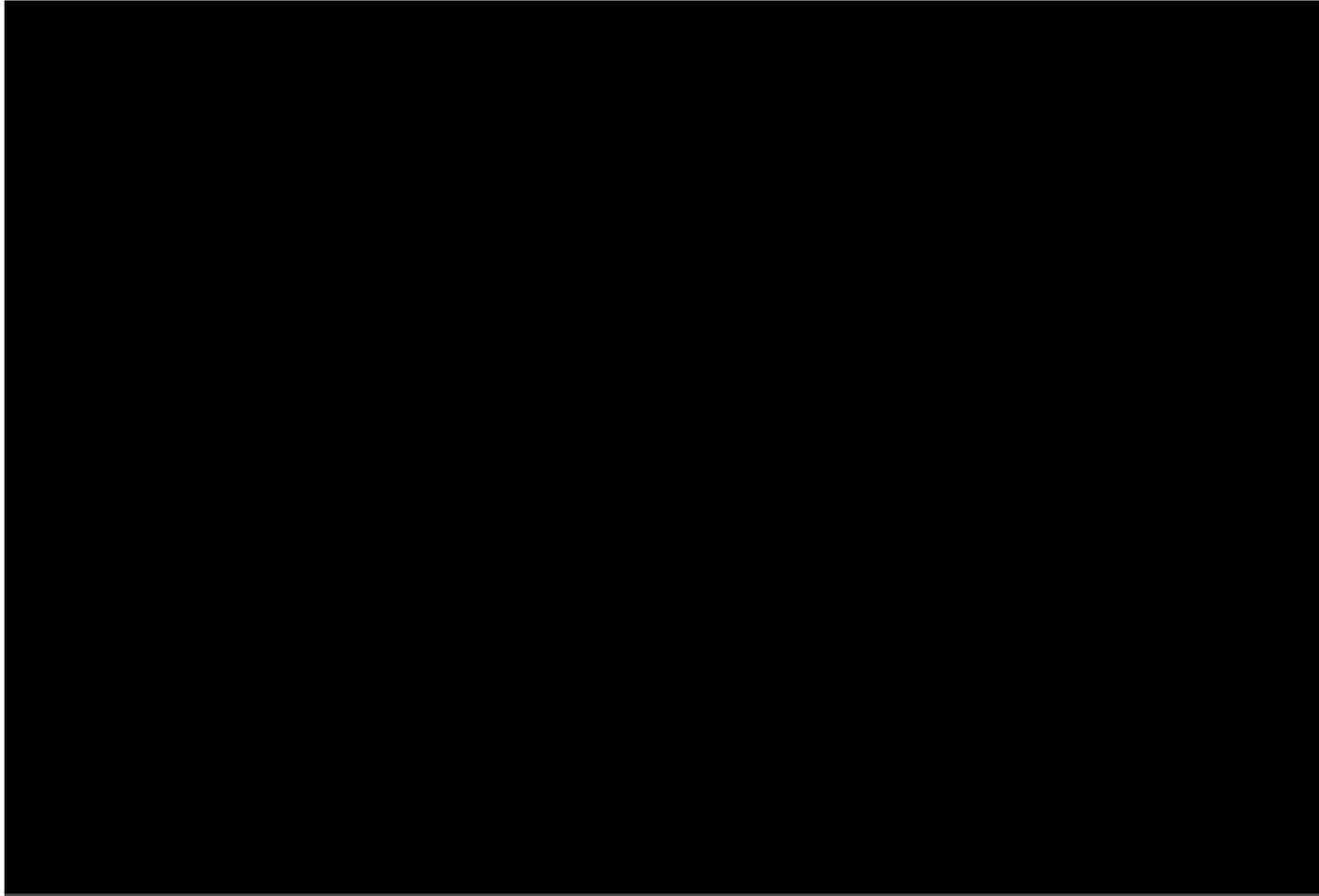
99% of Producers Want to do the Right Thing



What's Next

- ▶ **Nutrient Management Planning**
 - Focusing on manure application
 - Follow through on changes needed
 - Focus in TMDL areas
- ▶ **TMDL Implementation**
 - Utilizing Clean Water Legacy dollars to implement needed programs
- ▶ **Feedlot Expansions or Changes**
 - Fixes driven by new runoff model – MinnFarm

If You Get Discouraged



Questions?

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