Feedlot Rules and Manure Management Education in Minnesota. (A04-everett161651-Poster)

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Abstract:

Adoption of new state feedlot rules in Minnesota presented a teachable moment to inform livestock producers about appropriate crop nutrient and manure management practices. Over 100 county meetings were held in two rounds to describe general requirements of the rules and address manure management. An interagency team organized by the UM Extension Service prepared slide presentations and education documents. Regional training workshops prepared county staff of Extension and agencies to organize county producer meetings. The manure management sessions focused on appropriate application rates, protection of environmentally sensitive areas, and recordkeeping. Evaluations indicated that over 80% of producers in attendance were more likely to test soils, sample manure, and keep records as a result of the meetings. Contributions to success included the interagency approach at the state and county levels leading to a unified message, and buy-in of county staff based on education materials and meeting support funds made available through the grant-based project. Challenges included the time for developing materials by interagency teams and selection of a few priority topics.

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