

# SOUTH BRANCH ROOT RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT

## Financial Assistance Programs

# LOW-COST FEEDLOT FIX PROGRAM

The purpose of this program is to assist livestock producers with controlling runoff from feedlots. Low-cost, non-engineered practices can be cost-shared at 50% of the cost up to \$1000. Practices commonly used to significantly reduce the pollution potential from a feedlot site include clean water diversions, rain gutters on roofs, grass filter strips, and fencing.



An example of a feedlot fix before and after installation of practices.



- There are an estimated 150 feedlots with a total of over 20,000 animal units in the South Branch Root River Watershed Project area.
- The biological oxygen demand (BOD)\* of runoff from a cattle feedlot is 40 times that of untreated municipal sewage. The phosphorus content of cattle feedlot runoff is over 10 times that of untreated municipal sewage.

\*BOD is the oxygen depleting property of a pollutant as it breaks down in water.

**Project Sponsors:**

**Fillmore County**

**Mower County**



- The feedlot site is evaluated for pollution potential using a computer model. Various practices are put into the model to determine the amount of pollution reduction with the practices implemented.
- 50% cost-share is available up to \$1000. For example, for a project costing \$2100, \$1000 is cost-share, the remaining \$1100 cost is the landowner's responsibility.
- By October 1, 2005, current state feedlot rules require at least a 50% reduction in polluted runoff from feedlots with less than 300 animal units with Open Lot Agreements, and a 100% reduction by October 1, 2010. Feedlots with no Open Lot Agreement have two years to control 100% of the polluted runoff.

## SOUTH BRANCH ROOT RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT

Fillmore County Zoning Office  
P.O. Box 655  
Preston, MN 55965  
(507) 765-3325

Mower County Environmental Services  
1105-1/2 NE 8th Ave.  
Austin, MN 55912  
(507) 437-9527