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Milk House Wastewater Treatment

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Abstract Text:

Many dairy producers handle manure as a solid which means a separate system is required to handle the milk house wastewater. In the past, small dairy producers were allowed to discharge this effluent to surface waters with little or no treatment. Because milk house wastewater has a high concentrations of organic material and nutrients it can degrade surface water quality if not treated or disposed of properly. The objective of this project was to develop and test alternative milk house waste handling systems. For this project, 16 milk house wastewater treatment systems were installed and monitored in four counties in Minnesota.

Impact Statement:

Prior to this project there was very limited design and management information on handling milk house wastewater. The only real options available for handling of milk house wastewater were short or long term storage and land application. The results of this project were used to develop design and management guidelines which are now being implemented.