

FIELD ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

If you are interested in receiving Wood Ash, eligible field(s) must meet the following guidelines:

1. **Active** – Fields must be pasture land or actively being farmed.
2. **Current Soil Sample Report with a pH level of 7.1 or below** – Report must not be older than 1 year at the time of permitting and not older than 3 years at the time of ash delivery.
3. **Access** – Fields must have reasonable road access to accommodate a semi-truck.
4. **Size** – Minimum field size is 15 acres. Wood Ash delivery causes a 1-2 acre compaction area; making sites under 15 acres difficult to manage. Contact the SWCD for more information.
5. **Winter Storage** – If wood ash will be hauled during winter months, landowners must be able to provide a plowed staging area to store wood ash until spreading occurs.
6. **Setback** – Fields must meet the following setback requirements: 200' from a Residence; 600' from Residential Developments; 600' from Recreational Areas (including Cemeteries); 200' from a Private Well; 1000' from a Public Well.
7. **Waste applications** – Fields that have previously received municipal sludge are **NOT** eligible to receive Wood Ash.
8. **Ownership** – If you wish to receive wood ash on property that you operate but do not own, you must obtain the property owner's signature on an **“Authorization to Apply Wood Ash”** form (available from the SWCD).

Koochiching SWCD
501 3rd Street, Suite 201
Int'l Falls MN 56649

COOPERATIVE WOOD ASH PROGRAM

A Partnership between
Packaging Corporation of America
(PCA),
D.H. Contracting, LLC
the Koochiching SWCD,
and Landowners



INFORMATIONAL PROGRAM GUIDE

Updated June 2017

This pamphlet will help guide you through the various phases and components of the Wood Ash Program.

Landowner Responsibilities:

1. The Landowner is responsible for making sure each field meets the eligibility requirements that are outlined in this pamphlet.
2. Once eligibility has been established, the landowner is responsible for soil testing each eligible field (maximum of 40 acres per test). To qualify as a valid soil test, each field must be tested for phosphorus, potassium, pH, organic matter, and soluble salts. Valid soil test results must show a pH level of 7.1 or lower and be current to within 2 years. Soil test kits and instructions are available from the SWCD office.
3. Once soil testing is complete, the landowner is responsible for providing the SWCD with a copy of each valid soil test (if we have not received a copy from the soil lab) in order to begin the application process.

SWCD Responsibilities:

1. The SWCD will, upon receipt of a qualifying soil test, process your wood ash permit(s) within ten (10) working days from the date it is received.
2. Upon completion of the permit, the SWCD will forward a copy to PCA and work with the Ash Contractor to schedule delivery of ash to the permitted field.
3. The SWCD will be available to provide general program information as well as facilitate communications between the landowner and PCA's Ash Contractor.

PCA's Ash Contractor Responsibilities:

1. PCA's Ash Contractor and/or the SWCD will contact landowners who are scheduled to receive wood ash approximately 1 to 2 weeks prior to the projected delivery date.
2. PCA's Ash Contractor will work with the SWCD to prioritize and coordinate wood ash delivery/spreading (where applicable) using the following considerations:
 - location
 - accessibility
 - field size
 - soil conditions
 - weather conditions
 - road restrictions
 - black fields must be disked (not chisel plowed)

NOTE:

The Wood Ash Program, which runs 365 days per year, is a cooperative effort that has proven to be very successful since it began in the fall of 1997. However, due to the site selection variables listed above in #2, it is impossible to predict exactly when a particular field will receive ash. Therefore, it is important that you, the landowner, fertilize and plant your fields when the time is right for you. Do not delay tillage, planting, or other field operations with the hope of receiving ash in time for the current planting season. It is, however, our collective goal to deliver wood ash to all eligible fields within one (1) year of the permit date. If you have questions regarding the projected delivery date of ash to your farm field, please contact the SWCD.

We hope you found this program guide helpful. For questions regarding the Wood Ash Program, please contact the SWCD office Monday – Friday at 218-283-1175.



Wood Ash Hauling Area Map

Wood Ash Program Contacts

Eric Olson	
Koochiching SWCD	218-283-1175
Katie Bakken	
PCA	218-285-5244
D.H. Contracting, LLC	
PCA Ash Contractor	218-278-4767