



Veterans Notes

DAVID ANDERSON
Wadena County Veterans Service Officer

VA Extends Agent Orange Presumption to 'Blue Water Navy' Veterans

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is preparing to process Agent Orange exposure claims for 'Blue Water Navy' Veterans who served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975.

These Veterans may be eligible for presumption of herbicide exposure through Public Law 116-23, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, which was signed into law June 25, 2019, and goes into effect Jan. 1, 2020. They may also qualify for a presumption of service connection if they have a disease that is recognized as being associated with herbicide exposure.

The bipartisan Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act gives VA until Jan. 1, 2020, to begin deciding Blue Water Navy related claims. By staying claims decisions until that date, VA is complying with the law that Congress wrote and passed.

"VA is dedicated to ensuring that all Veterans receive the benefits they have earned," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "We are working to ensure that we have the proper resources in place to meet the needs of our Blue Water Veteran community and minimize the impact on all Veterans filing for disability compensation."

Blue Water Navy Veterans are encouraged to submit disability compensation claims for conditions presumed to be related to Agent Orange exposure. Veterans over age 85 or with life-threatening illnesses will have priority in claims processing.

Veterans who previously were denied for an Agent Orange related presumptive condition can file a new claim based on the change in law. Eligible survivors of deceased Blue Water Navy Veterans also may benefit from the new law and may file claims for benefits based on the Veterans' service.

The new law affects Veterans who served on a vessel operating not more than 12

nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia, as defined in Public Law 116-23. An estimated 420,000 to 560,000 Vietnam-era Veterans may be considered Blue Water Navy Veterans.

To qualify, under the new law, these Veterans must have a disease associated with herbicide exposure, as listed in 38 Code of Federal Regulations section 3.309(e).

Agent Orange presumptive conditions are:

- AL amyloidosis
- Chloracne or similar acneform disease
- Chronic B-cell leukemias
- Diabetes mellitus Type 2
- Hodgkin lymphoma, formerly known as Hodgkin's disease
- Ischemic heart disease
- Multiple myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, formerly known as Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Parkinson's disease
- Peripheral neuropathy, early-onset
- Porphyria cutanea tarda
- Prostate cancer
- Respiratory cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx or trachea)

- Soft-tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma or mesothelioma).

For more information about Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam waters (Blue Water Navy Veterans), visit: <https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/navy-coast-guard-ships-vietnam/>.

Veterans seeking more information should contact their County Veterans Service Officer, call VA's toll-free number at 800-827-1000 or visit the VA Blue Water Navy Agent Orange website.

[Source: St Cloud VA press release 07/08/2019++]

As always please see your local County Veterans Service Officer if you have any questions. You can contact your local VSO at (218) 631-7617 or by email at david.anderson@co.wadena.mn.us and as always have a great week.

Perham Health recognized for efforts to protect patients from influenza

Perham Health was among 69 hospitals and nursing homes from around the state recognized today by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) for achieving high influenza vaccination rates among facility employees during the 2018-19 flu season.

For the 2018-19 season, 449 Perham Health employees, representing 95 percent of staff, received influenza vaccinations. Of the 246 Perham Living employees, 91 percent, received the vaccination. In addition to aiming for 90% or higher influenza vaccination rates among employees, participating FluSafe facilities also worked to address a barrier to vaccination during the past season.

The FluSafe program aims to get all health care personnel at hospitals and nursing homes in Minnesota, except those with medical exemptions, vaccinated against influenza each season. According to state health officials, unvaccinated health care workers can potentially pass highly contagious influenza to their patients, many of whom are at high risk for complications from influenza.

"Our patients' health is our top priority," said Chuck Hofius, CEO of Perham Health. "Participating in the FluSafe program helps us increase employee influenza vaccination rates and prevent flu from

spreading to our patients. We also want all of our employees to be as healthy as possible during flu season."

Of the 109 facilities that participated in FluSafe this year, 69 were recognized by MDH for achieving flu vaccination rates of 90% or higher among staff and reporting on a barrier to vaccination. "We continue to be grateful for - and impressed by - the important steps participating facilities are taking to prevent flu through health care worker vaccination," said Kristen Ehresmann, director of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention and Control at MDH.

Health care facilities participating in the FluSafe program receive guidance and access to tools and promotional materials from MDH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help them increase their influenza vaccination rates. The facilities record and document their vaccination rates through the state's immunization information system, the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC).

More information on the FluSafe program, including a list of the 2018-19 facilities can be found on FluSafe Facilities (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/flu/hcp/vaccine/fluSAFEfac.html).



Cost sharing makes organic certification more affordable, rebates now available to farms and handlers

Minnesota organic farmers and processors can apply for a rebate of up to 75 percent of the cost of their organic certification through The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Organic Cost Share Program. Applications are now being accepted until October 31, 2019.

Organic certification is a third-party verification system. It assures consumers the organic products they buy are produced in accordance with federal organic regulations. Organic operations must follow National Organic Standards and are monitored through review of their records and on-site inspections at least once a year.

Funds for the cost share program come from a cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (USDA-FSA). Operations that received certification

(or had ongoing certification) between October 1, 2018 and September 30, 2019 are eligible for reimbursement of up to 75 percent of certification-related expenses.

The maximum rebate available is \$750 per category (crop, livestock, processing/handling, wild harvest). The MDA also offers a similar cost share program for transitioning to organic.

To qualify, applicants must be certified organic by a USDA-accredited certifying agency. The MDA has already mailed application packets to all certified organic operations in the state.

Any certified organic farmer or processor who did not receive a packet can obtain all the program details and necessary materials on the Organic Agriculture section of the MDA's website or by contacting Cassie Dahl, Organic Agriculture Specialist, at 651-201-6134 or cassie.dahl@state.mn.us. Applicants that do not wish to apply with MDA may apply through their local USDA-FSA Office.

vulnerable regions of the state at www.mda.state.mn.us/vulnerability.

In other areas of the state where fall nitrogen fertilizer application is allowed, the MDA encourages delaying application until soil temperatures cool to below 50 degrees F to help prevent loss, protect water quality, and ensure more nitrogen will be available for next season's crop.

At cooler soil temperatures, the incorporated fertilizer is less likely to be converted to water soluble nitrate. This occurs because the microbes in the soil that convert ammonium to nitrate are less active in cooler temperatures. Less activity and less conversion mean more ammonium will remain in the soil. Once converted to nitrate, it can be moved by water percolating through the soil, leaching out of the root zone. This commonly occurs in early spring when soils thaw.

Although the soil temperature network was established to support application of commercial fertilizer, it is equally useful for those applying manure in the fall. University of Minnesota Extension recommends the same temperature delay (six-inch soil temperature below 50 degrees F) to prevent leaching losses. Research from the University of Minnesota at Waseca showed liquid dairy and hog manures injected in November produced yields 10 bushels per acre higher than manures injected in September and October.

MnDOT asks motorists, farm equipment operators to safely share the road during harvest season

Motorists traveling on Minnesota roads this fall should be aware of large farm equipment transporting crops to markets, grain elevators and processing plants, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

"Harvest season is ramping up across Minnesota and farmers need the highways to access their fields and deliver crops to market," said Brian Sorenson, state traffic engineer. "Motorists need to be prepared to encounter slow-moving farm vehicles, especially on rural, two-lane roadways, now through November.

Farm equipment is large and heavy, making it hard for operators to accelerate, slow down or stop. The equipment also makes wide turns and can sometimes cross over the center line. These vehicles can also create large blind spots, making it difficult for operators to see approaching vehicles. All of these factors can cause serious crashes.

From 2016 to 2018, there were seven fatalities and 385 crashes involving at least one farm vehicle in Minnesota, according to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's crash data. Of the seven fatalities, one was a farm vehicle

rider. Of the 154 injuries, 50 were farm vehicle riders.

Motorists should:

- Slow down and use caution when approaching farm equipment. Don't assume the operator can see you.
- Watch for debris dropped by trucks. It is safer to brake or drive through debris than to veer into oncoming cars or off the road.
- Wait for a safe place to pass.

Farm equipment operators should:

- Use lights and flashers to make equipment more visible.
- Use slow-moving vehicle emblems on equipment traveling less than 30 mph.
- Consider using a follow vehicle when moving equipment, especially at night.
- Properly secure your load.



Public Notices

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NOTICE HYDRANT FLUSHING

The Menahga Water Department will be flushing hydrants starting Wednesday, September 18th through Friday, October 11th, 2019, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. Residents may experience some discoloration of their water. The water is safe to drink and use in cooking.

If you have any questions, please contact the City Office at (218) 564-4557.

Ronald Yliniemi, Public Works Director

9-18,25;10-2c

INVITATION FOR A SEALED BID

TO PROVIDE BULK ROAD SALT

The County of Wadena is accepting bids on bulk rock salt to be purchased during the 2019-2020 winter season. Salt will need to be delivered to the locations listed below, in the bid, by the bidder. The quantity shown below in the bid is an estimate only, and the County does not commit to purchase this amount or any minimum amount under this bid. Sealed bids to provide bulk road salt are to be completed by Tuesday, October 15, 2019 9 a.m. and must be mailed or hand-delivered to the address listed below. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the address below. Proposals not physically received by the county by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 will be returned, unopened to the firm.

All proposals should be addressed to:

County of Wadena
Attention: Highway Department
2019-2020 BULK ROAD SALT
Attention: Ryan Odden, County Engineer
221 Harry Rich Drive
Wadena, MN 56482

BID:

Bulk Rock Salt at \$_____ per ton for an estimated quantity of 1500 tons during the 2019-2020 winter season.

Delivery cost of \$_____ per ton to Wadena County Highway Department, 221 Harry Rich Drive, Wadena, MN.

Delivery cost of \$_____ per ton to Menahga County Highway Shop, 216 SE 1st Street, Menahga, MN.

The County of Wadena reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informality in bidding.

10-2,9pc

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

The second half of Wadena County Real Estate Taxes, Payable 2019 are now due and must be paid on or before October 15, 2019. Mail early to avoid late postal cancellations.

All mail postmarked the 16th of October or later will be charged a penalty. (November 15, 2019 for Farm Real Estate) Please check your tax statements and enclose stubs with your payment.

Your Auditor/Treasurer is not responsible for parcels omitted.

Heather Olson
Wadena County Auditor/Treasurer 10-2c



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Heather Olson		9/25/19	
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