If you're making fire, you're making poison. IT’S BETTER NOT TO BURN!

Burning garbage releases dioxins that can end up in the food we eat! Burn barrels and burn pits release hazardous pollutants into the air which then settle on our fields, woods, waters and soils. As a result, these substances accumulate in the foods we eat and eventually end up in our bodies.

We’ve burned garbage for years not realizing the health and environmental problems it causes. Add the fact that “garbage” has changed quite a bit in the past decades and now includes more plastic and treated materials than what our grandparents would have burned so it ends up releasing more pollutants.

Burning is dangerous to property too. Backyard burning is responsible for over 40% of the wildfires in Minnesota. And don’t forget, someone has to put it out. Firefighting is a dangerous job!

Feasible alternatives are available:

• The Lyon County landfill accepts garbage. Call 507-865-4615 for fees and hours of operation.

• Call a garbage service provider in your area to inquire about details/fees regarding rural collection services available.

Burning household garbage in burn barrels, stoves, and fire pits creates pollution that's dangerous to human health and contaminates the air, water, and soil. It's also against the law for most homeowners in Minnesota, though there is an exemption allowing rural residents without garbage service to bury or burn household garbage. Have you looked into the cost of garbage service recently? Garbage service at your rural property may be quite affordable, and is a much better alternative to onsite burning or burying.