



Livestock Facility Siting

Key Features of the Livestock Facility Siting Law and Rule

Limited applicability. This rule only applies to facilities in areas that regulate livestock siting, and then only if the facility is new or expands by 20% and is over 500 animal units (or exceeds a lower local threshold), or the facility expands beyond a the threshold approved on a pre-existing permit.

Predictable process. Operators will not be surprised by additional requirements during the process, which facilitates efficient expansion planning.

Predictable timeframe. Operators that properly complete the application and meet the standards will receive a permit in about 4 months. If the permit decision is appealed, the process will take about 6 months.

Guaranteed permit to expand. Operators will receive a permit if they properly complete the application and meet the standards.

Reduced environmental risk. Operators are assured that facilities are built and operated in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. This process and associated standards reduce the risk that facilities will pollute the water or the air.

Maintained or increased facility value. The siting permit follows the land and are permanent. If the facility is sold, the siting permit—including the allowable size and the odor standard future reference points—stays with the facility. This guarantees both current and future expansions will be allowed, if standards are met.

Cost-effective. Standards are known up-front and facility design can take standards into effect. Farm managers and lenders can make expansion and management decisions based on actual costs. Avoids legal costs associated with long local conflicts and avoids unnecessary design and construction costs associated with unnecessary standards.

Right-to-farm. The standards and protections in the livestock siting rule are the strongest right-to-farm protections passed in a decade.

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Siting Standards and Requirements

- **Setbacks** – use local setbacks, not to exceed state maximums
- **Required Plans** – develop and follow incident response and employee training plans
- **Existing laws** – must meet all existing laws (i.e. construction site erosion control, mortality management, etc.)
- **Animal Units** – reflects Wisconsin’s long-standing method of counting animals.
- **Odor** – exempts mid-size operations (under 1000 AU) and those far from neighbors (more than 2500 feet). Avoids rigid setbacks and allows flexible management choices. Exempt facilities may voluntarily complete and comply.
- **Waste and Nutrient Management** – follow current law.
- **Waste Storage** – follow current law. Ensures structures do not leak and are structurally sound.
- **Runoff Management** – follows current law. Allows some discharge to water.

Program Implementation

- Provide monthly reports on program implementation to ATCP Board
- Review rule yearly for first 4 years – make changes as necessary
- Provide education and training to all stakeholders
- Conduct additional research on odor and air emissions

For more information contact the livestock siting program manager at 608-224-4613.