

**GENERALLY ACCEPTED  
AGRICULTURAL  
AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR  
SITE SELECTION AND ODOR CONTROL  
FOR NEW AND EXPANDING  
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION FACILITIES**

**ADOPTED BY  
MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE  
LANSING, MICHIGAN**

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# GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR SITE SELECTION AND ODOR CONTROL FOR NEW AND EXPANDING LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION FACILITIES

## SECTION I. INTRODUCTION

In 1999, the Michigan legislature enacted P.A. 261 which amended the Michigan Right To Farm Act. P.A. 261 requires the establishment of Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Livestock Facilities. These Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs) are written to fulfill that purpose and to provide uniform, statewide standards and acceptable management practices based on sound science.

~~A farm or farm operation that conforms to these and other applicable GAAMPs adopted under the Michigan Right to Farm Act according to the Michigan Right to Farm Law (Act 93 of 1981, as amended), shall not be found to be a public or private nuisance. This protection also covers farm operations that existed before a change in the land use or occupancy of land within one mile of the boundaries of the farmland, if before that change, the farm would not have been a nuisance. Likewise, this conditional protection applies to any of the following circumstances (P.A. 93 Section 3 (3)):~~

- ~~(a) — A change in ownership or size.~~
- ~~(b) — Temporary cessation or interruption of farming.~~
- ~~(c) — Enrollment in governmental programs.~~
- ~~(d) — Adoption of new technology.~~
- ~~(e) — A change in type of farm product being produced.~~

~~To be afforded nuisance protection under these GAAMPs, certain producers must complete, and conform with, the site selection review and verification process, as described in Section V.~~

The Michigan legislature passed into law the Michigan Right to Farm Act (Act 93 of 1981) which requires the establishment of Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs). These practices are written to provide uniform, statewide standards and acceptable management practices based on sound science. These Practices can serve producers in the various sectors of the industry to compare or improve their own managerial routines. It should be understood that new scientific discoveries and changing economic conditions may require necessary revision of the Practices.

The Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices that have been developed are the following:

- 1) 1988 Manure GAAMPs
- 2) 1991 Pesticide GAAMPs
- 3) 1993 Nutrient GAAMPs
- 4) 1995 Care of Farm Animals GAAMPs

- 5) 1996 Cranberry Production GAAMPs
- 6) 2000 Site Selection – Livestock Facilities

These practices were developed with industry, university and multi-governmental agency input. As agricultural operations continue to change, new practices may be developed to address the concerns of the neighboring community. Agricultural producers who voluntarily follow these practices are provided protection from public or private nuisance litigation under the Right-To-Farm Act. The website for the GAAMPs is at <http://www.michigan.gov/mda> Click “Farming” and then click “GAAMPs” to access.

## FARM PLANNING AND SITE DEVELOPMENT

The GAAMPs for site selection and odor control for new and expanding livestock production facilities are intended to fulfill three primary objectives:

- 1) Environmental Protection
- 2) Social Considerations (neighbor relations)
- 3) Economic Viability

When all three of these objectives are met, the ability of a farm operation to achieve agricultural sustainability is greatly increased.

Farm planning involves three broad phases: Collection and analysis (understanding the problems and opportunities); decision making; and implementation. Collection and analysis includes: Determining objectives; inventorying resources and analyzing data. Decision support includes formulating alternatives, evaluating alternatives and making decisions. The final step is implementation.

Producers should utilize recognized industry and university professionals in the evaluation of the economic viability and sustainability of constructing new or expanding existing livestock production facilities. This evaluation should be comprehensive enough to consider all aspects of livestock production including economics, resources, operation, waste management and longevity.

The decision of where to site a livestock production facility can be based on several objectives including: preserving water quality, minimizing odor, working with existing land ownership constraints, future land development patterns, maximizing convenience for the operator, maintaining esthetic character, minimizing conflicts with adjacent land uses and complying with other applicable local ordinances. The environmental objectives of these GAAMPs focus specifically on water quality protection and odor control, and how environmental and management factors affect the suitability of sites for livestock production. The suitability of a particular site for a livestock production facility depends upon a number of factors, such as the number of animal units (size), the species of animals, wind directions, land base for use, topography of the surrounding land, adjacent

land uses, the availability of Class A roads for feed and product movement, soil types, hydrology and many others.

Site selection is a complex process, and each site should be assessed individually in terms of its proposed use. These GAAMPs are written in recognition of the importance of site-specificity in siting decisions. While general guidelines apply to all siting decisions, specific criteria are not equally applicable to all types of operations and all locations. In addition to the guidelines provided in these GAAMPs, the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) technical references, including the Agricultural Waste Management Field Handbook (AWMFH) and the Field Office Technical Guides (FOTG), are excellent sources for information and standards related to the siting of livestock production facilities.

Groundwater and surface water quality issues regarding animal agriculture production are currently addressed in the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for Manure Management and Utilization. The GAAMPs for Manure Management and Utilization cover runoff control and wastewater management, construction design for manure storage and treatment facilities, and manure application to land. In addition, the GAAMPs for Manure Management and Utilization stress the importance of each livestock production facility developing a manure management system plan that focuses on management of manure nutrients and management of manure and odors. These issues are currently covered in the GAAMPs for Manure Management and Utilization and are not duplicated here. Both the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) P.A. 451 of 1994, as amended, and the GAAMPs for Manure Management and Utilization **both address discharges to the waters of the state. have established a zero discharge standard of manure and other agricultural byproducts into groundwater and surface water. NREPA protects the waters of the state from the release of pollutants in quantities and/or concentrations that violate established water quality standards. Discharges that are regulated as violations to Part 4 Rules, Water Quality Standards, of Part 31, Water Resources Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA451, as amended.**

## TECHNOLOGIES

Odor control is a primary focus relating to the social consideration objectives of these GAAMPs. Odor perception is a subjective response to what people detect through their sense of smell in the air they breathe and poses unique management challenges for livestock producers. While there is no scientific evidence that odorous gases that escape from livestock production facilities are toxic at the concentrations in the atmosphere experienced by neighbors, they can become an annoyance or a nuisance if manure is mismanaged or livestock production facilities are improperly sited.

Recent experiences with the National Pork Producers Council On-Farm Odor Assessment Program suggest that significant odor reduction can be achieved by improving the management of certain livestock production facilities. Improved management as well as the adoption of new technologies to control odor offer a means for reducing odor from

livestock production facilities and manure storage facilities, thus broadening the area within which livestock production facilities may be appropriately sited.

Odor reduction technologies include, but are not limited to, vent biofilters, manure storage covers and composting. Each technology presents different challenges and opportunities. These should be considered during the planning process for a new or expanding animal livestock facility. Management activities for odor control are outlined in the GAAMPs for Manure Management and Utilization.

The Minnesota Odor Estimator Model is available as a component of the planning process. For new sites, this will aid in identifying non-farm residences that may be impacted by the site and whether the location or technology proposed for the new facility will minimize the impact on non-farm residences. For sites of expanding livestock production the model will aid in the planning to identify additional non-farm residences that may be affected by the expanding operation and whether location or technology can minimize the impact on additional residences. The use of the Minnesota Odor Estimator Model will alert the producer to potential conflicts while still in the planning process. The Minnesota Odor Estimator model is available from MSU Extension, consultants, NRCS and MDA's Website (<http://www.mda.state.mi.us>)

The goal for effective odor management is to reduce the frequency, intensity, duration and offensiveness of odors that neighbors might experience. Because of the subjective nature of human responses to certain odors, recommending appropriate technology and management practices is not an exact science. Since site selection for livestock production facilities is an important factor in managing, and therefore, minimizing potential for odor impacts upon neighbors, site selection for new and expanding residential housing should consider setbacks to avoid potential land use conflicts.

Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Livestock Production Facilities will help determine the suitability of sites for livestock production facilities. These GAAMPs provide a planning process that can be used to properly plan new and expanding facilities to increase the suitability of a particular site and enhance neighbor relations.

## **SECTION II. DEFINITIONS, AS USED IN THESE GAAMPs:**

Animal Units - Animal units are defined as listed in the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 40 Section 122, Appendix A. (See Table 1)

Distances between a Livestock Production Facility and Non-Farm Residences - The distance from a livestock production facility and a residence is measured from the nearest point of the livestock production facility to the nearest point of the residence.

Expanding Livestock Production Facility - a new facility to increase the holding capacity where animals will be confined that is built at a site that presently has livestock production facilities contiguous to the construction site.

Livestock Farm Residence - a residence on land owned/rented by the livestock farm operation and those residences on farms affiliated by contract or agreement with the livestock production facility.

Livestock Production Facilities - includes all facilities where farm animals as defined in the Right To Farm Act are confined with a capacity of 50 animal units or greater and the associated manure storage facilities. Pasture systems are excluded.

New Livestock Production Facilities - all facilities where animals will be confined that are built at new sites and are not part of another livestock production facility, including a site that is expanding greater than 100% of existing production within any 3 year time period and the resulting number of animal units will exceed 749.

Non-Farm Residence - a residence that is habitable for human occupation and is not affiliated with the specific livestock production system.

Pasture Systems - Pasture land is land that is primarily used for the production of forage upon which livestock graze. Pasture land is characterized by a predominance of vegetation consisting of desirable forage. Sites such as loafing areas, confinement areas, or feedlots which have livestock densities that preclude a predominance of desirable forage species are not considered pasture land.

**Property Line Setback** - is the distance from the livestock production facility to the property line measured from the facility to the nearest point of the facility owner's property line. **If a producer owns land across a road, the road or right of way does not constitute a property line. Local road/property line setbacks do apply.**

**Table 1. Animal Unit Equivalentents**

<b>Animal Units</b>	50	250	500	750	1,000
<b>Animal Type<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Number of Animals</b>				
Slaughter and Feeder Cattle	50	250	500	750	1,000
Mature Dairy Cattle	35	175	350	525	700
Swine <sup>2</sup>	125	625	1,250	1,875	2,500
Sheep and Lambs	500	2,500	5,000	7,500	10,000
Horses	25	125	250	375	500
Turkeys	2,750	13,750	27,500	41,250	55,000
Laying Hens or Broilers	5,000	25,000	50,000	75,000	100,000

<sup>1</sup>All other animal classes, types or sizes (eg. Nursery pigs) not in this table, but defined in the Michigan Right to Farm Act or described in Michigan Commission of Agriculture Policy, are to be calculated as one thousand pounds live weight equals one animal unit.

<sup>2</sup>Weighing over 55 pounds.

### **SECTION III - DETERMINING ACCEPTABLE LOCATIONS FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION FACILITIES**

All potential sites for new and expanding livestock production facilities can be identified by three general categories. These are:

Category 1. Sites normally acceptable for livestock production facilities.

Category 2. Sites where special technologies and/or management practices could be needed to make new and expanding livestock production facilities acceptable.

Category 3. Sites that are not acceptable for new and expanding livestock production facilities.

Category 1 Sites: Sites normally acceptable for livestock production facilities.

Category 1 sites are those sites which have been traditionally used for agricultural purposes and are in an area with a relatively low residential housing density. These sites are located where there are 5 or fewer non-farm residences within ¼ mile from a livestock production facility with less than 749 animal units, and 5 or fewer non-farm residences

within ½ mile from a livestock production facility with 750 animal units or greater. New and expanding livestock production facilities should only be constructed in areas where local zoning allows for agriculture uses.

For any proposed site in Category 1, it is recognized that there is potential risk for surface or groundwater pollution or conflict over excessive odors from a livestock production facility. However, the appropriate use of technologies and management practices can minimize these risks, thus allowing the livestock production facility to operate with minimal potential for excessive odor or environmental degradation. These measures should be incorporated into a Site Plan and a Manure Management System Plan, both as defined in Section II, which are required for all new and expanding livestock production facilities that are within this category. If the proposed site is within Category 1, it is recognized that this is a site normally acceptable for livestock production facilities. As shown in Table 2, if the proposed site is within Category 1 and has a capacity of 50 to 499 animal units, MDA will review and verify the producer’s plans at the producer’s request. If the proposed site is within Category 1 and has a capacity of 500 or more animal units, the producer must follow the MDA site selection review and verification process as described in Section V.

**Table 2. Category 1 Site Setbacks, Verification and Notification – New Operations**

Total Animal Unit	New or Expanding Operations Non-Farm Residences within Distance	Property Line Setback <sup>1</sup>	MDA Site Review and Verification Process	Local Unit of Government Notification <sup>2</sup>
50-499	0-5 within ¼ mile	250 ft	Upon Producer Request <sup>3</sup>	Yes
500-749	0-5 with ¼ mile	400 ft	Yes	Yes
750-999	0-5 with ½ mile	400 ft	Yes	Yes
1000 or more <sup>4</sup>	0-5 within ½ mile	600 ft	Yes	Yes

<sup>1</sup>May be modified upon written request based upon the Minnesota Odor Estimator Model utilizing the 95% odor annoyance free requirement, proximity to existing non-farm residences, adjacent land use and management technologies implemented at the livestock production facility.

<sup>2</sup>If proposed new facility or expansion is on a township boundary, the adjacent township will be notified.

<sup>3</sup>To be afforded nuisance protection under these GAAMP(s) producers must conform to all requirements of the GAAMPs but are not required to complete the site review and verification process if less than 500 animal units.

<sup>4</sup>Operations exceeding 1000 animal units may be required to implement further odpr reduction special technologies and/or management practices

**Table 2. Category 1 Site Setbacks, Verification and Notification – Expanding Operations**

Total Animal Unit	New or Expanding Operations Non-Farm Residences within Distance	Property Line Setback <sup>1</sup>	MDA Site Review and Verification Process	Local Unit of Government Notification <sup>2</sup>
50- <del>499</del> 249	0- <del>5</del> 7 within ¼ mile	<del>250</del> 125 ft	Upon Producer Request <sup>3</sup>	Yes
250-499	0-7 within ¼ mile	200	Upon Producer Request	yes
500-749	0- <del>5</del> 7 with ¼ mile	<del>400</del> 200 ft	Yes	Yes
750-999	0-5 7 with ½ mile	<del>400</del> 200 ft	Yes	Yes
1000 or more <sup>4</sup>	0-5 7 within ½ mile	<del>600</del> 300 ft	Yes	Yes

<sup>1</sup>May be modified upon written request based upon the Minnesota Odor Estimator Model utilizing the 95% odor annoyance free requirement, proximity to existing non-farm residences, adjacent land use and management technologies implemented at the livestock production facility.

<sup>2</sup>If proposed new facility or expansion is on a township boundary, the adjacent township will be notified.

<sup>3</sup>To be afforded nuisance protection under these GAAMP(s) producers must conform to all requirements of the GAAMPs but are not required to complete the site review and verification process if less than 500 animal units.

<sup>4</sup>Operations exceeding 3500 animal units may be required to implement further odor reduction special technologies and/or management practices

Category 2 Sites: Sites where special technologies and/or management practices could be needed to make new and expanding livestock production facilities acceptable.

Category 2 sites are those where site-specific factors may limit the environmental, social or economic acceptability of the site for livestock production facilities and where structural, vegetative, technological and management measures can be planned and implemented to address those limiting factors. These measures should be incorporated into a Site Plan and a Manure Management System Plan, both as defined in Section IV, which are required for all new and expanding livestock production facilities that are within this category. New and expanding livestock production facilities should only be constructed in areas where local zoning allows for agriculture uses.

Table 3 shows how Category 2 sites are defined and lists setbacks, verification and notification requirements. As an example, a proposed site for an expanding livestock production facility with 500 animal units and between 6 and 20 residences within ¼ mile of the facility, would have a setback of 400 feet from the owner’s property line, would require that a Site Plan and a Manure Management System Plan be verified by MDA, and would require that the local unit of government be notified.

**Table 3. Category 2 Site Setbacks, Verification and Notification – New Operations**

Total Animal Units	For new Operations Non-Farm Residences Within Distance	For new Operations Non-Farm Residences Within Distance	Property Line Setback <sup>1</sup>	MDA Site Review and Verification Process	Local Unit of Government Notification <sup>2</sup>
50-249	6-13 within 1/4 mile	<del>6-13</del> within 1/4 mile	250 ft	Upon Producer Request <sup>3</sup>	Yes
250-499	6-13 within 1/4 mile	<del>6-13</del> within 1/4 mile	300 ft	Yes	Yes
500-749	6-13 within 1/4 mile	<del>6-13</del> within 1/4 mile	400 ft	Yes	Yes
750-999	6-13 within 1/2 mile	<del>6-13</del> within 1/2 mile	500 ft	Yes	Yes
1000 or more	6-13 within 1/2 mile	<del>6-13</del> within 1/2 mile	600 ft	Yes	Yes

<sup>1</sup> May be modified upon written request based upon the Minnesota Odor Estimator Model, utilizing the 95% odor annoyance free requirement, proximity to existing non-farm residences, adjacent land use and management technologies implemented at the livestock production facility.

<sup>2</sup> If proposed new facility or expansion is on a township boundary, the adjacent township will be notified.

<sup>3</sup> To be afforded nuisance protection under the GAAMP(s) producers must conform to all requirements of the GAAMPs but are not required to complete the site review and verification process if less than 250 animal units.

**Table 3. Category 2 Site Setbacks, Verification and Notification – Expanding Operations**

Total Animal Units	For Expanding Operations Non-Farm Residences within Distance	For new Operations Non-Farm Residences Within Distance	Property Line Setback <sup>1</sup>	MDA Site Review and Verification Process	Local Unit of Government Notification <sup>2</sup>
50-249	<del>6</del> 8- 20 within 1/4 mile	<del>6-13</del> within 1/4 mile	<del>250</del> 125 ft	Upon Producer Request <sup>3</sup>	Yes
250-499	<del>6</del> 8- 20 within 1/4 mile	<del>6-13</del> within 1/4 mile	<del>300</del> 200ft	Yes	Yes
500-749	<del>6</del> 8- 20 within 1/4 mile	<del>6-13</del> within 1/4 mile	<del>400</del> 200 ft	Yes	Yes
750-999	<del>6</del> 8- 20 within 1/2 mile	<del>6-13</del> within 1/2 mile	<del>500</del> 250 ft	Yes	Yes
1000 or more	<del>6</del> 8- 20 within 1/2 mile	<del>6-13</del> within 1/2 mile	<del>600</del> 300 ft	Yes	Yes

<sup>1</sup> May be modified upon written request based upon the Minnesota Odor Estimator Model, utilizing the 95% odor annoyance free requirement, proximity to existing non-farm residences, adjacent land use and management technologies implemented at the livestock production facility.

<sup>2</sup> If proposed new facility or expansion is on a township boundary, the adjacent township will be notified.

<sup>3</sup> To be afforded nuisance protection under the GAAMP(s) producers must conform to all requirements of the GAAMPs but are not required to complete the site review and verification process if less than 250 animal units.

As part of the review and evaluation of the proposed site plan, MDA will determine if these GAAMPs are being utilized and if appropriate technology and management practices are included in the plan.

Category 3 Sites: Sites not appropriate for new and expanding livestock production facilities.

New and expanding livestock production facilities should not be constructed in areas where local zoning does not allow for agriculture uses. Any proposed site with more than the maximum number of non-farm residences specified in Table 3 is a Category 3 site. New and expanding livestock production facilities are inappropriate for that site. Additionally, the following categories are considered unacceptable for construction of new and expanding livestock production facilities.

1. Wetlands - New and expanding livestock production facilities shall not be constructed within a wetland as defined under MCL 324.30301 (NREPA, PA 451, as amended).
2. Floodplain - New and expanding livestock production facilities and manure storage facilities shall not be constructed in an area where the facilities would be inundated with surface water in a 25 year flood event.

The following categories are also considered unacceptable for construction of new livestock production facilities. However, expanding livestock production facilities may be acceptable if appropriate control technologies and management practices are used. In addition, review and approval of expansion in these areas is required by the appropriate agency, as indicated.

1. Drinking Water Sources

Groundwater protection - New livestock production facilities shall not be constructed within a 10 year time-of-travel zone designated as a wellhead protection area as recognized by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), pursuant to programs established under the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act, P.A. 399. An expanding livestock production facility may be constructed with review and approval by the local unit of government administering the Wellhead Protection Program.

Where no designated wellhead protection area has been established, construction of new and expanding livestock production facilities shall not be closer than 2000 feet to a Type I or Type IIa public water supply and shall not be closer than 800 feet to a Type IIb or Type III public water supply. An expanding livestock facility may be located closer than these distances, so long as appropriate hydrogeological studies indicate that water quality will not be jeopardized. New and expanding livestock production facilities should not be constructed within 75 feet of any known existing private domestic water supply (wellhead).

Surface water protection - New and expanding livestock production facilities shall not be constructed within the 100 year flood plain of a stream reach where a community surface water source is located, unless the livestock production facility is located downstream of the surface water intake.

2. High Public Use Areas - Areas of high public use or where a high population density exists are subject to setbacks to minimize the potential effects of a livestock production facility on the people that use these areas. New livestock production facilities should not be constructed within 1500 feet of hospitals, churches, licensed commercial elder care facilities, licensed commercial childcare facilities, school buildings, commercial zones, parks or campgrounds. Existing livestock production facilities may be expanded within 1500 feet of high public use areas with appropriate MDA review and verification. The review process will include input from the local unit of government and from people who utilize those high public use areas within the 1500-foot setback.
3. Residential Zones - Areas that are zoned primarily for residential use will generally have housing at a density that necessitates setback distances for livestock production facilities to prevent conflicts. New livestock production facilities shall not be constructed within 1500 feet of areas zoned for residential use where agriculture uses are excluded. Existing livestock production facilities may be expanded within 1500 feet of areas zoned for residential use with approval from the local unit of government.

## **SECTION IV. - DEVELOPING A SITE PLAN AND A MANURE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM PLAN**

### Site Plan

A Site Plan is a comprehensive layout for a livestock production facility, and includes a base map(s) to scale of the property illustrating the following features:

- Property lines, easements, rights-of-way, and any deed restrictions.
- Public utilities, overhead power lines, cable, pipelines, and legally established public drains.

- Positions of buildings, wells, septic systems, culverts, drains and waterways, walls, fences, roads, and other paved areas.
- Location, type and size of existing utilities.
- Location of wetlands, streams and other bodies of water.
- Existing land uses for contiguous land.
- Names and addresses of adjacent property owners.
- Basis of livestock production facility design (i.e. NRCS; Midwest Plan).
- A soils map of the area where all livestock production facilities are located.
- Location and Distance to the non-farm residences within one-half mile.
- Location and Distance to the nearest residentially zoned area.
- Topographic map of site and surrounding area.

### Manure Management System Plan

The Manure Management System Plan describes the system of structural, vegetative and management practices that the owner/operator has chosen to implement on the site for all proposed new and existing facilities. Items to address in the manure management system plan are described in the GAAMPs for Manure Management and Utilization. The manure management system plan will include the following components:

- Sufficient land, or have access to sufficient land for the proper collection, storage, treatment, transfer and utilization of the manure and other by-products generated.
- Polluted runoff and leachate from manure and feed should be collected and transferred to storage or treatment facilities and should be utilized in an environmentally acceptable manner.
- Planning and installation of manure management system components to ensure proper function of the entire system.
- A written operation and maintenance plan for all structural components of the manure management system including inspection frequency, areas to address, regular maintenance and record keeping.

### Minnesota Odor Estimator Model

- Assessment of potential odor generation including use of the results of the Minnesota Odor Estimator Model and the technologies and management practices to be implemented to ~~minimize excessive~~ **adequately control** odors.

Other items that may accompany the manure management system plan include the following:

Emergency Action Plan -Through development of an Emergency Action Plan, identify the actions to take and contacts to be made in the event of a spill or discharge.

Veterinary Waste Management Plan - identify the processes and procedures used to safely dispose of livestock-related veterinary wastes produced on the farm.

Conservation Plan - field-specific plan describing the structural, vegetative and management measures for the fields where manure and other by-products will be applied.

Dead Animal Disposal Plan - identify the processes and procedures used to safely dispose of the bodies of dead animals (Bodies of Dead Animals Act P.A.-239 of 1994).

### WHO NEEDS A CNMP AND WHO **REQUIRES** ONE?

Every farm is encouraged to develop a CNMP. However, as of January 1, 2003 those farms with 1000 Animal Units (AU) or more must develop a CNMP. This date refers to when Michigan adopted a general permit for farms and farm operations with 1000 AU and over. Any farms that have had a Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) documented discharge to surface water beginning from January 14, 2000 must develop a CNMP and apply for coverage under a general NPDES permit. Any farm that has not had a documented discharge has a choice; they can either choose to be under the permit or to be a part of the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP). Each decision **requires** the development of a CNMP.

For additional information regarding the permit go to: [www.michigan.gov/deq](http://www.michigan.gov/deq)  
For additional information regarding MAEAP go to: [www.maeap.org](http://www.maeap.org) or call 517-241-4063

## SECTION V - SITE REVIEW AND VERIFICATION PROCESS

### Siting Request Process:

The GAAMPs for site selection and odor control for new and expanding livestock production facilities are applicable for producers with new and expanding livestock production facilities with a capacity of 50 animal units or greater (see Table 1), who are seeking nuisance protection under the Right to Farm Act. Producers with facilities that require MDA verification in categories 1, 2, or 3 should contact the MDA and begin the site selection review and verification process prior to the construction of new livestock production facilities and expansion of existing livestock production facilities.

To begin the review and verification process, contact can be made with the Michigan Department of Agriculture Right to Farm Program by calling 877-632-1783. This number is toll free and is operational during normal business hours.

#### Development of Plans:

A request to begin the site review and verification process can be made by submitting a letter from the responsible party to the MDA Right to Farm Program. This letter should outline the proposed new construction or expansion project, any areas of concern, agencies and individuals the producer is already working with, and the proposed timeline. The responsible party must also submit a completed site plan and a manure management system plan. If special technologies or management practices are to be implemented for the successful operation of the livestock production facility, these must be included in the siting request package.

Producers may also utilize recognized industry, university, and agency professionals in the development of their siting request, site plan and manure management system plan. Structures should be designed and constructed by competent individuals or companies utilizing generally accepted standards, guidelines and specifications. (e.g. NRCS, Midwest Plan Service).

#### MDA Preliminary Site Visit:

MDA will conduct preliminary site visits to proposed new and expanding livestock production facilities. This site visit will take place upon receipt of the complete siting request package and will focus on addressing conformance with the plan components, identifying areas of concern, and verifying information submitted in the siting request. Upon receipt of the siting request package, MDA will notify the local unit of government in writing of that proposed livestock production facility siting request. At the request of the producer, a preliminary site visit could be conducted prior to submission of the complete siting request package.

#### Review and Verification:

MDA will review completed siting requests upon receipt. The review will verify the following: siting request information submitted; conformance with this GAAMP, a complete Site Plan and Manure Management System Plan, including the assessment of odor potential and a plan to minimize excessive odors; project timetable; local unit of government input; and recognized industry, university, or agency professional involvement. If deficiencies in the siting request are identified, MDA will communicate those to the responsible party for further modification.

#### Determination of Conformance with this GAAMP:

MDA will determine if the siting request is in conformance with the GAAMP for Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Livestock Production Facilities. This determination will be conveyed to the responsible party on MDA letterhead and will remain valid for three years. If the siting request is found not to be in conformance with this GAAMP, MDA will provide justification for that decision to the responsible party. The completed project must be reviewed by MDA to assure conformance with this GAAMP. The facility must be completed in conformance with the verification request proposal.

#### Notification to Local Unit of Government:

MDA will notify the local unit of government of all proposed livestock production facility siting requests and of all determinations made regarding the status of a siting request for siting a new or expanding livestock production facility.

**Review Process:**

If either the owner of the proposed livestock production facility, or any surrounding neighbor within one mile of the proposed facility or the local unit of government disagrees with the results of the review and verification process, they may request MDA's decision be reviewed by the Michigan Commission of Agriculture within 60 days of the date the decision was issued. The request shall be in writing and include supporting documentation. MDA will review the supporting documentation and then will consult with at least three recognized professionals in the siting and management of livestock production facilities and odor control practices as listed below to further evaluate the proposed siting request. MDA will notify the professionals of the request. The professionals shall review and report a recommendation on the proposed siting request to the Commission of Agriculture within 60 days of receipt of the notification form to MDA. **An extension may be granted by the Commission of Agriculture.** The final decision rests with the Michigan Commission of Agriculture. This review process is created solely for the purpose of this specific GAAMP, and the Administrative Procedures Act does not apply.

**Recognized Professionals:**

Recognized professionals in the siting and management of livestock production and odor control practices may include, but are not limited to personnel from the following:

- a. Conservation Districts
- b. Industry Representatives
- c. Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- d. Professional Consultants and Contractors
- e. Professional Engineers
- f. United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
- g. University Agricultural Engineers and other University Specialists

The site review and verification process will be conducted in accordance with MDA procedures and protocol.

## REFERENCES

The Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for Manure Management and Utilization.

Jacobsen, Larry and Huiqing Guo. An Odor Setback Estimator for Feedlots (OSEFF). BAE Department. University of Minnesota. (Minnesota Odor Estimator Model)

Jacobson, Larry, Huiqing Guo, David Schmidt, Richard Nicolai, Jun Zhu and Kevin Janni. Worksheet for the Odor Rating System to Estimate Setback Distances for Animal Production Sites. Version 1.0. BAE Department. University of Minnesota. (Minnesota Odor Estimator Model)

The Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (PA 451 of 1994).

Michigan Right to Farm Act, PA 93 of 1981, as amended.

National Pork Producers Council On-Farm Odor Assessment Program.

United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Field Office Technical Guide, East Lansing, MI.

United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Agricultural Waste Management Field Handbook, Washington DC, 1992.

United States Federal Clean Water Act [Code of Federal Regulations 40 (CFR40)]