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Legal Authority: Michigan Right to Farm Act, Public Act 93 of 1981, as amended

Description of the Program:

- The Right to Farm Livestock Facility Siting Program is designed to help farmers properly plan, site, build, and maintain new and expanding livestock production facilities.
- A set of Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs) for Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Livestock Facilities has been developed and adopted by the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development. These science-based GAAMPs include a comprehensive set of site planning, odor evaluation and control, manure management and utilization, farm management, and construction standards for new and expanding livestock facilities in Michigan.
- Farmers requesting verification to build new or expand existing livestock facilities need to complete a formal site selection review and approval process. MDARD works with the farm to evaluate management practices and facility designs, as well as the proximity to non-farm neighbors, land use zoning, and existing land use considerations. An Odor Management Plan is a key component of this process for neighbor relations and social compatibility.
- This program works pro-actively with livestock producers to effectively manage nutrients, control odors on their farms, and address the environmental and social concerns of their non-farm neighbors.
- This program also works with small producers in more populated areas on siting livestock facilities with less than 50 animal units using a neighboring housing density and proximity assessment.

Why it Matters:

- There are increasing social and environmental concerns regarding animal agricultural production in Michigan and across the nation. This is especially the case with the siting and management of new and expanding large-scale livestock production facilities, often referred to as concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs).
- To date, approximately 70 percent of the estimated 225 CAFOs in Michigan have completed the Right to Farm Site Selection verification process.
- In more populated areas, there is interest in growing livestock and providing those products on a more localized basis.

Key Stakeholders

- Michigan farmers
- General public
- Elected officials
- Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality
- Michigan State University Extension
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Michigan conservation districts
- Agriculture industry groups
- Michigan Farm Bureau

Key Deliverables

- 59,702 animal units covered under Manure Management System Plans
- 507 site requests received since 2000
- 389 have been approved
- 319 facilities have completed
- \$54 million/year of economic activity

FY15 Accomplishments:

- Timely response to verification requests.
- All “Acknowledgement of Receipt” letters are sent out within five business days.
- All “Verification Requests” are reviewed within 30 business days.
- 46 new “Verification Requests” were processed.
- 57 Site Selection GAAMPs inspections were conducted.
- Updated site verification process includes MDARD Review Team with Environmental Stewardship Division engineering staff to confirm that all new verification requests are complete and accurate.
- Significant increase in category determination requests between FY14 and FY15 of 440 percent.

Measuring Success:

Metric	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Site Selection Requests	24	24	40	58	46
New facilities	7	5	19	22	13
Expanding facilities	17	17	21	36	33
Livestock Species					
Dairy	11	10	16	23	19
Swine	7	7	11	18	8
Poultry	3	4	3	7	16
Beef	1	1	3	6	3
Other	2	2	7	3	0
Category Determinations <50 AUs	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	22
Facility Size					
< 1,000 animal units	9	10	23	23	16
1000 - 2,000 animal units	6	8	10	10	14
> 2,000 animal units	9	6	7	7	8
Annual Economic Benefit (\$ M)	21	43	74	108	66

Dashboards and Scorecards:

The Right to Farm Program did not have an item on the departmental scorecard for FY15. Staff is working with MDARD’s Director of Strategy and Business Performance to design measures toward this end.

FY16 Program Goals:

- Provide “Acknowledgment of Receipt” letters to farms within five business days.
- Complete Site Verification Review Team case file assessments for all new site verification requests within 30 business days.
- Continue to provide consistent administration of the Michigan Right to Farm Act, current Site Selection GAAMPs, and construction standards requirements for livestock farms to earn site verification approval.
- Increase education and outreach to animal agriculture industry on the Site Selection GAAMPs.