



Livestock Facility Siting

Odor Management Standard (Worksheet 2)

Why do we need standards for odor?

Odor is a very real and often highly charged issue for farmers, neighbors and local government in terms of health risks, perceived and real, and nuisance suits. Currently, many local governments have enacted ordinances that control livestock facility siting and odor from livestock facilities on a locally specific basis.

The odor standards set forth in the siting rule creates a more uniform approach to the regulation of odor associated with livestock operations. The intent of the standard is to simplify existing local approval processes for both livestock operators and local governments.

How does the odor standard work?

- Uses a predictive model to estimate odor from manure storage, housing and lots.
- Requires practices if a proposed facility does not have adequate distance from neighbors
- Provides a range of practices too choose from, including low cost options to manage odor
- Protects future expansions by fixing the closest neighbor at the time of the original application
- A one-time determination that does not allow for continuous odor monitoring for enforcement purposes

Am I exempt from the odor standard?

There are many facilities that are exempt from the odor standard. Your facility is exempt if:

- You are expanding your facility and will have fewer than 1,000 animal units; or
- You are building a new facility and will have fewer than 500 animal units; or
- All of the livestock structures associated with your facility will be located at least 2,500 feet from the nearest affected neighbor.

You may voluntarily complete and comply with the odor standard even if exempt.

How do I know if my proposed facility will meet the odor standard?

It is easy to calculate your facility's odor score by using information that is already available. To obtain an odor score, you will need your facility's predicted odor, separation score, and management score.

Predicted Odor: To determine this score, you will need to know the following information about your livestock operation:

- The type and size of animal housing, waste storage, and animal lots you use;
- The types of odor management practices that you use or plan to use; and
- The distance of each of your structures to your nearest affected neighbor.

The application provides odor generation numbers for each structure as well as a list of qualifying odor management practices.

Separation Score: Three easy factors are used to calculate your separation score:

- The average weighted distance (in feet) from your facility to your nearest affected neighbor (calculated from the predicted odor information);
- The compass direction from your facility to your nearest neighbor; and
- The density of your neighbors.

Management Score: Each applicant receives 80 points for completing the required employee training and incident response plans. Applicants may receive an additional 20 points for completing an optional advanced odor management plan

Odor Score: The odor score is the sum of your separation and management scores minus predicted odor. A score of 500 or more passes the odor standard. Local governments have limited discretion to award additional points to applicants to help them pass the standard.

Applicants have the option of completing the worksheet included in the application, or substituting the results from an automated spreadsheet available at: www.datcp.state.wi.us.

What if my farm is large and my facility structures are not all in the same area? Do I have to calculate one “predicted odor” score and one total “odor score?”

No. If your livestock facility structures are located in “clusters” that are 750 feet or more apart, you may calculate an odor score for each cluster.

What if I want to use an odor control practice not included on the list of approved practices?

Applicants can apply to DATCP for approval to use an innovative odor control best management practice. DATCP will consider the practice and approve or disapprove it. Approved practices will be awarded an odor reduction factor. Local governments must allow the use of practices that have been approved by DATCP.

For more information about the livestock siting odor standard contact Steve Struss at 608-224-4629.