

DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU HEAR ABOUT NEW LIVESTOCK BARN

HONEST ANSWERS TO VALID QUESTIONS

New can be scary, and when you don't know what that something new really is, it's easy to get caught up in what you hear or see on the Internet. Today's farms and ranches don't quite look like the pastoral images in children's books or the memories of your grandparents' farm or ranch. Just as you update your smartphone when new technology is available, farmers and ranchers leverage the newest technology to make producing your food, fiber and fuel efficient and safe for the animals and the environment. Raising livestock in barns is one way livestock farmers and ranchers are doing just that.

When it comes to new or growing livestock farms and ranches, the same questions arise, and we have some answers. But, you don't have to take our word for it — we've cited our resources and encourage you to do your own research. Visit www.farmersandranchersdeliver.com to take a look.



1

DOESN'T LIVESTOCK POLLUTE OUR WATER?¹

NOPE. Large modern livestock buildings — also referred to as concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) and confined feeding operations (CFOs) — are required to have environmental plans developed by engineers in compliance with federal and state rules. These documents include nutrient management plans, which are basically a calculation of how much manure will be produced, how it will be stored and how it will be managed until it can be appropriately applied to land as a highly effective fertilizer.

New livestock buildings are also sited per county zoning and designed and constructed according to state rules that specify set distances from waterways, wells, intakes and the like. By regulation, CAFOs and CFOs are not allowed to have any manure discharge — none, zero, zilch.

Source: Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) Requirements

2

CAN THEY BUILD ANYWHERE THEY WANT?^{2,3}

NOPE. When it comes to building or expanding livestock barns, farmers and ranchers aren't able to put a barn "just anywhere." There is a lot of science, engineering, best practices and regulations that determine a barn's location. Both the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) require permits for new or expanding barns. Since almost all of Nebraska's 93 counties have zoning, additional measures may be in place for siting, but you can be assured that farmers and ranchers aren't looking to put a barn somewhere it shouldn't be. After all, this is where they live, too. *Source: NDEQ*

3

IF A NEW BARN GOES IN NEXT DOOR, WON'T NEIGHBORHOOD PROPERTY VALUES GO DOWN?⁴

RARELY. Quite a few studies have been conducted across the U.S. to analyze property value impacts from nearby animal feeding operations (AFOs). Each study shows that numerous variables contribute to an animal operation's possible effect. Distance to a home, scale of the operation, type of animal, general value of houses in the area and operation management all influence how a barn will affect nearby properties. Overall, livestock production has been shown to increase economic activity in rural areas and have an overall positive impact in the community. Proper placement, modern barns with the newest technology and well-managed operations all mitigate possible negative impacts. *Source: University of Missouri Extension*

4

WON'T EVERYTHING SMELL LIKE MANURE ALL THE TIME?^{5,6}

NOPE. While there is no denying that manure — and the smell — is an inevitable part of animal agriculture, livestock farmers and ranchers do everything they can to mitigate odor and be good neighbors. It starts with choosing the correct building site and designing barns with sophisticated ventilation and manure-holding structures, but that's not all; here are some other smart tactics used to keep the air fresh:

- Planting windbreaks and shelterbelts (trees and shrubs)
- Implementing feed-management strategies
- Covering outside storage structures
- Aerating liquid storage structures
- Avoiding fertilizing fields with manure on weekends and holidays if possible

Following nutrient management principles is a requirement for compliance; in fact, in Nebraska, all large CAFO's are required to attend Land Application Training every 5 years. But, manure is a valuable resource that contains all the nutrients needed to keep the land rich and fertile for growing crops. So, farmers and ranchers don't like to waste it! *Source: NDEQ and University of Nebraska-Lincoln*



5

DOES ANYONE REGULATE THESE BARNs?⁷

YEP. In fact, there are literally volumes of ever-changing rules and regulations that farmers and ranchers must keep informed of and meet or exceed, and there are several agencies providing oversight. Think of it this way: Federal and state agencies regulate how barns are managed, and local agencies regulate where they are built. Once the approved building is ready for livestock, both the animals and the manure are subject to specific rules around things like transportation, application of manure as fertilizer, feeding practices and animal care.

Keep in mind, it's in a farmer's or rancher's best interest to meet or exceed all standards to make sure their livestock and the land stay safe and sound. *Source: NDEQ*

Nebraska's livestock farmers and ranchers are a part of the community fabric, caring for the land and animals that feed their families, and yours.

As community leaders and economic contributors, Nebraska's livestock farm and ranch families are responsible neighbors invested in their heritage, their future and the health of the community.

Learn more about Nebraska's livestock farmers and ranchers at www.farmersandranchersdeliver.com

This material is reprinted with Indiana Soybean Alliance permission by the Nebraska soybean checkoff, supporting our number one customer — Nebraska's livestock and poultry farmers and ranchers.

¹Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. "Livestock Waste Control Program." Accessed February 2016. Retrieved from: <http://deq.ne.gov/NDEQProg.nsf/OnWeb/LWCP>

²Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. "Instructions for Completing A Site Plan for Non-Permitted Animal Feeding Operations." Accessed February 2016. Retrieved from: <http://deq.ne.gov/Publica.nsf/PubsForm.xsp?documentId=CD-065DC58935BD71862568B80077FF44&action=openDocument>

³Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. "NPDES General Permit (2-Year) for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations Confining Cattle." Accessed February 2016. Retrieved from: <http://deq.ne.gov/Publica.nsf/PubsForm.xsp?documentId=B49E563C-28771CF186257A4B00737AA6&action=openDocument>

⁴Edwards, E. and R. Massey. October 2011. "Animal Feeding Operations and Residential Value: Summary of Literature." University of Missouri Extension. Accessed February 2016. Retrieved from: <http://extension.missouri.edu/publications/DisplayPrinterFriendlyPub.aspx?P=MP748>

⁵Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. "Best Management Practices for Odor Control." Accessed February 2016. Retrieved from: <http://deq.ne.gov/Publica.nsf/PubsForm.xsp?documentId=EAA688E6C36A12B3862568BE005C91AA&action=openDocument>

⁶University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. "Manure Nutrient Management." Accessed February 2016. Retrieved from: <http://water.unl.edu/manure/manure-management>

⁷Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. "NDEQ Publications, Grants and Forms." Accessed February 2016. Retrieved from: <http://deq.ne.gov/Publica.nsf/Pubs.xsp>

AFAN LVST 35863-9



ANIMAL AGRICULTURE IS MORE THAN HOT WINGS, BACON BURGERS AND ICE CREAM. IT'S DOING WHAT'S RIGHT FOR COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES.