



## Livestock Facility Siting

### **Implementation Responsibilities of Local Governments**

#### **What personnel will we need to administer the siting rule?**

Reviewing the worksheets may require some specialized expertise. You may be able to use existing personnel, such as the county land conservation department staff, if those staff have not assisted the applicant in completing the worksheets. If you decide to use county staff or hire other expertise, they may charge you for this service. You should discuss what existing personnel may be available and at what cost to assist with administration of these new procedures.

Another resource that may be available are private consultants who specialize in the various areas of the state standards. Finally, you could contract with the regional planning commission to obtain assistance from one or more experts. This model has worked effectively for administering the nonmetallic mining reclamation standards.

#### **How much will it cost to administer siting permits?**

You may charge each applicant a permit fee, not to exceed \$1000. The fee must be in your ordinance and must bear a reasonable relationship to the cost to provide the permit. You may use the fee to cover expenses such as hiring experts to review the worksheets, sending the required notices, keeping records, and holding meetings.

The initial costs of setting up the procedures to administer this program and any enforcement actions may exceed the revenues recovered by fees. However, administering an effective livestock facility siting program is necessary to protect the community and environment and to help insure that new and expanding livestock facilities are sited and operated in a responsible manner.

#### **What responsibilities will we have after issuing a siting permit ?**

Local governments that issue siting permits should be prepared to insure that livestock facilities are operated as described and approved in the original application. While daily, weekly, or even monthly inspections of such livestock facilities should not be required, if a citizen complains about a facility, inspections may be necessary to assure the neighboring citizens the facility is complying with required practices.

#### **How can we insure that expanding livestock facilities apply for a permit?**

The state standards only apply if you decide to require permits, and then only if the existing facility expands by 20% or more AND crosses the permit threshold (usually 500 AU) OR if the facility exceeds a pre-existing permit threshold. As with most permits, it is the responsibility of the operator to come forward and apply for a permit when required. However, you could require all existing facilities to establish an animal count as of the effective date of your ordinance. This suggestion may avoid problems from neighbors who claim livestock operations have increased and exceeded the threshold for which the new standards apply. If you determine that a facility did not get a permit when required, you could issue stop work orders or fines until a permit is received.