

LIVESTOCK SITING ASSESSMENT MATRIX

A tool developed from experience, expertise and science

Livestock development in Nebraska is a key component of growing the state's economy. Such development is especially critical in Nebraska's rural areas seeking to increase job opportunities and boost its populations.

But where to locate new livestock operations or expand current ones, can be a tricky proposition. Those decisions are left at the hands of local citizens and their county officials trying to make fair and thoughtful recommendations.

In order to assist counties in making such determinations, the Nebraska Legislature passed **LB106** in 2015.

The legislation directed the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) to create and consult with a committee of experts to develop a **livestock siting assessment matrix**. The matrix is a practical tool for county officials to use when determining whether to approve a conditional-use permit or special exception application.

Advisory committee members were appointed in October 2015 and include representation from county officials, the livestock industry and the

Livestock Operation Size	
	Number of animals (for multiple species)
	Animal Units (see Animal Units table)
1	Large livestock operation (1,000 or more)
2	Medium livestock operation (300 to 999)
3	Small livestock operation (less than 300)
B Environmental Protection	
1	Maximum of 30 points. Conditional-use permit is required. Will these items be in place?

Livestock Assessment Matrix

University of Nebraska. The committee convened multiple times over the course of several months to review information about matrices and similar tools already in use and to develop recommendations for a matrix to be offered to Nebraska counties.

In developing the matrix, NDA and the Matrix Committee considered criteria based on public health and safety, practicality, cost

effectiveness, objectivity,

science, the growth and viability of animal agriculture in Nebraska, balancing the economic vitality of farm operations with protecting natural resources and other community interests.

The decision by a county to adopt the matrix in assessing permit and special exception applications is voluntary. As of July 2017, county officials in Dodge and Merrick counties in Nebraska chose to adopt the matrix as their assessment and decision making tool.

For more information regarding the livestock siting assessment matrix, contact Jacy Spencer at the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, 402-471-4876 or jacy.spencer@nebraska.gov.