

CONSERVATION COUNTS

JEFFERSON COUNTY LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT



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Planning to Expand Your Livestock Operation?

If you are planning to expand your livestock operation, then you should find out more about the Livestock Siting Law. State Statute requires that all livestock siting permits follow the same process; a process that became effective in 2006 with the passage of new provisions in the Jefferson County Zoning Ordinance.

In Jefferson County, expanding facilities that will exceed 150 animal units, a previous conditional use permit, or those obtaining a State WPDES Permit will need to apply for a Livestock Siting Permit. Livestock Siting only applies to dairy and beef cattle, swine, poultry, sheep, and goats. All other types of livestock will be permitted under the old conditional use permit system that has been in effect since 1975.

The Jefferson County ordinance requires an application packet and worksheets be filled out by those who propose to expand. Completing these required elements and working your way through the process of deadlines and a public hearing can be overwhelming. However, if you start with a clear and defined plan for your expansion, then the process should go smoothly.

What You Will Need To Know & Submit

The following is a partial list of what you will need to know as you are filling out the application and worksheets. This list also includes the management and design plans that are required to be submitted with the application. Again, you should have all of your expansion decisions determined before you apply, otherwise the siting process will take longer.

- Animal numbers proposed
- Location of proposed livestock buildings, storage, new/expanded feed storage, new/expanded animal lots, wells
- Proximity of neighbors to operation
- Employee Training Plan (must be submitted)
- Environmental Incident Response Plan (must be submitted)
- How manure will be handled (includes storage and land application)
- Annual waste produced with expansion (includes manure, wastewater, leachate, etc.)
- Maps showing where manure will be land applied (must be submitted)
- Nutrient Management Plan Checklist completed by a qualified nutrient management planner (must be submitted for some applicants)
- Capacity of existing and proposed waste storage
- Manure Storage Designs if building new storage (must be submitted)
- Animal Lot Designs if creating new lots or substantially changing existing lots (must be submitted)
- Runoff models completed by an engineer for existing animal lots (must be submitted)
- Feed Storage Designs prepared by an engineer if creating new feed storage or substantially changing existing feed storage (must be submitted)

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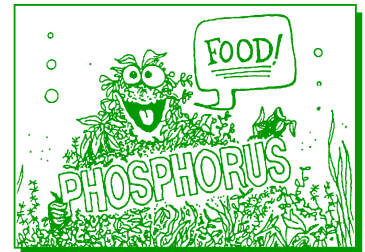
Who Can Help with Your Expansion Plans and Permit Process

As you can see, there are many pieces of information covering several different aspects of your operation that are required with the Livestock Siting Permit application. There are individuals and businesses that can assist you with some of the planning and application requirements. Some resource professionals who may be able to assist you include the livestock agent at the UW-Extension, and your farm co-operative. Professional consultants will also be part of the process and include an agricultural engineer (private or government) and crop consultants. For lists of engineering consultants and nutrient management planners, please contact the Land and Water Conservation Department.

If you have specific questions regarding the Livestock Siting Law and process in Jefferson County, you should contact Jefferson County. The Zoning and Planning Department (920-674-7130) can provide information on the paperwork, public hearing, and timeline. The Land and Water Conservation Department (920-674-7110) can provide you with information on the paperwork, standards, and maps. In addition, the State Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection has some very useful information on their website (<http://datcp.state.wi.us>, click on "Siting Livestock Operations" tab in the lower right hand corner of the page).

Phosphorus in Lawn Fertilizers

Many of the lakes and rivers in Jefferson County suffer from excess phosphorus loading. The consequence of too much phosphorus in our waterways is noxious weed and algae growth, decreases in water clarity, low dissolved oxygen levels that harm fish and aquatic life, and recreational impairments. One pound of phosphorus in runoff entering our waterways can produce 300-500 pounds of algae. This adds a cost burden to our local economy, namely in the form of reduced property values, lost tourism revenues, and the high expense of rehabilitation projects.



There are existing laws that work to reduce phosphorus from industries, wastewater treatment plants, and agriculture. There is another source of phosphorus that is unnecessary and controllable: fertilizers applied to lawns. The application of phosphorus lawn fertilizers often exceeds soil requirements, leading to a build up of phosphorus in the soil that poses a long-term water quality threat to Wisconsin's surface waters. In fact, lawn soil tests in Jefferson County have shown that our soils are predominantly phosphorus rich, and do not need additional phosphorus to grow.

Local governments in Wisconsin (Dane County, City of Madison, City of Pewaukee, City of Delafield, Town of Delafield, Town of LaGrange, Town of Delavan, Village of Twin Lakes, and Village of Lac La Belle) and the State of Minnesota have recognized the seriousness of the threat, and adopted controls affecting the sale and use of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus.

The Land and Water Conservation Committee has also stepped forward on this issue and put forth two resolutions. They sponsored a resolution which has been passed by the Jefferson County Board to request the legislative delegation to sponsor a state law prohibiting the sale and application of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus; or to sponsor legislation authorizing counties to adopt ordinances applicable to cities, town, and villages to control the sale and use of phosphorus lawn fertilizers. The second resolution that the Land and Water Conservation Committee has spearheaded, is a resolution that will be presented at the Wisconsin Conservation Congress annual meeting on April 16, 2007. This resolution recommends that the Department of Natural Resources take action to advance language that limits the use and sale of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus. For more information, contact Patricia Cicero, Land and Water Conservation Department, at 920-674-7121.

Corn Seed Treatment Available as Bird Repellant

Have you had problems in the past with cranes eating your newly planted corn seed? If so, Avitec™ may be for you. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has approved the use of Avitec™ in the states of Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota to protect corn seed from damage by cranes. Avitec™ is a non-lethal bird repellant with an active ingredient of 9, 10 Anthraquinone which is a substance naturally used by plants to repel birds from eating fruits.

In spring, cranes forage in corn fields on kernels shed during the previous year's harvest. But once a new crop is planted, cranes also learn to eat the newly planted seeds. The planted kernels are most vulnerable for about 2 weeks after the young corn seedlings emerge. Each day after planting, a single crane can destroy enough young corn plants to decrease yield by 3 ½ bushels. Over the six weeks of feeding opportunity in the spring, this amounts to almost 150 bushels of corn per bird.

Cranes detect Avitec™ at very low levels and avoid it so planted kernels that are treated with Avitec™ are not consumed by cranes. The birds continue to forage on waste grains and insect larvae in those same fields.

Last year, farmers were allowed to use Avitec™ in dry form to treat their seeds in the planter box. This year, a new liquid formulation of the product is available to pre-treat the seed prior to planting. Liquid treated corn will guarantee adequate amounts of Avitec™ will be on planted seeds.



If you plan on using the liquid formulation, please contact Tim Bender at the UW-Extension in Jefferson (920-674-7295). Tim would like to observe and validate the results of the liquid formulation in field size trials. For more information on the availability of Avitec™, check with your current seed retailer, seed distributor, or the Avitec™ help line at 1-800-468-6324 or www.arkionls.com.

Land and Water
Conservation Committee
Carlton Zentner, Chair
Howard Wiedenhoef, Vice Chair
Karen Christian, FSA Representative

Land and Water
Conservation Department
Mark Watkins
County Conservationist
Nancy Lannert
Resource Conservationist
Patricia Cicero
Water Resources Management Specialist
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Deb Miller
Administrative Clerk

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920-674-7110
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Farmland Preservation Status Reviews

Farmland Preservation participants should be on the lookout for a post card indicating that their farm has come up for Status Review. All participants are scheduled for review at least once every six years. Staff from the Land and Water Conservation Department will be checking fields for residue levels and other supporting practices such as waterways and contour farming that may be part of the conservation plan. Post cards will be mailed out at the end of May to landowners who have been selected for this year's review. After the field checks have been made, a report will be mailed to the owner and operator.

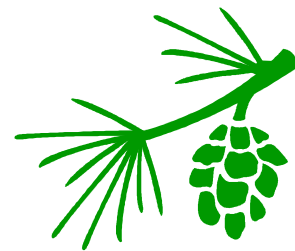
Landowners are also reminded that if they haven't mailed in their Annual Certification Card, they should do so as soon as possible. For those of you with internet access, you can visit the Jefferson County web site and certify on-line. Save yourself a stamp and visit us at <http://www.co.jefferson.wi.us/landcon/index.shtml>. To start, press the red "FPP On-Line Certification" button. The link will take you to a form much like the post card. When you are done filling it out, simply press the "Submit Form" button. It's just that easy.

Anyone with questions on the Farmland Preservation Program or conservation planning may call Nancy Lannert, Resource Conservationist, at 920-674-7115.

Tree Programs

County Program

Every year, the LWCD holds a tree seedling sale offering a variety of hardwoods and conifers. As of the printing of this newsletter, we still have bur oak, red oak, and white oak trees available for sale. Trees come in bundles of 25 trees for \$22 plus tax. Please call Deb (920-674-7110) if you would like to place an order.



For those who already have ordered trees, the pick up is scheduled at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds for the following dates and times:

Thursday, April 19 from noon to 6 p.m., Friday April 20 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If you would like to receive a brochure for the 2007-2008 sale, please provide your contact information to Deb (920-674-7110) and your address will be placed on the Department's Tree Sale mailing list. Order forms are sent out in the fall.

State Program

The Department of Natural Resources has a tree and shrub sale for larger orders. A minimum order must consist of a total of 1,000 tree seedlings, or 50 shrubs, or one packet. There are 4 different packets: Energy Packet (300 conifers suitable for a windbreak), Moist Shoreland Packet (50 conifers, 50 hardwoods, 200 wildlife shrubs), Sandy Shoreland Packet (25 conifers, 75 hardwoods, 200 wildlife shrubs), and the Wildlife Packet (100 conifers, 200 wildlife shrubs). To determine what species are available and to place an order, call 1-800-875-9050 or visit DNR's website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/nursery/order/inventory.htm>.

Tree Planting and Spraying Equipment

The Land and Water Conservation Department has various types of planting and spraying equipment for rent to help you with your tree planting needs. Tree spud shovels are available free of charge, with a \$25.00 deposit that is refunded upon return of the shovel. To schedule use of the tree spud shovels, please contact our office at 920-674-7110.

Our office also has tree planters and sprayers that are scheduled for use by the Department of Natural Resources foresters: Mary Ann Buenzow (608-743-4830) for south of Highway 18, and Randy Stampfl (920-387-7884) for north of Highway 18. There are 3 large tree planters that rent for \$30 for planting 2,000 trees or less, and \$15.00 for every additional 1,000 tree seedlings planted. There are 2 tank-type herbicide sprayers available for a flat rate of \$35.00 per use. Depending on demand, the planters and sprayers are available on a first come, first served basis.

Conservation Happenings

The Land and Water Conservation Committee meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 8:30 am in room 112 of the Jefferson County Courthouse. The public is welcome to attend. Please call Deb (920-674-7110) to confirm the meeting day and time before attending.

The Rock River Coalition is holding its annual meeting on May 8 at Joseph Megaan's in Lake Mills. For more information, contact the Rock River Coalition at 920-674-7443.

The Jefferson County Dairy Breakfast will be held on Saturday, June 2 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

Student Intern Needed

The Land and Water Conservation Department is currently searching for a college student to serve as an intern in our office. We are looking for someone with an interest in soil and water conservation and environmental issues. The selected intern will work with the resource professionals in the office on a variety of projects including map development, field work assistance, inspection of conservation practice installation, and help with lake sampling.



The successful applicant will work approximately 840 hours starting at the end of April or beginning of May. They will work 40 hour work weeks, or less than 40 hours to accommodate class schedules.

Interested individuals should contact Mark Watkins (920-674-7110). A Jefferson County job application can be downloaded from the Jefferson County website at <http://www.co.jefferson.wi.us/> (click on "job opportunities" in the left hand column of the web

Cost-Sharing Programs for Conservation Practices

The Land and Water Conservation Department implements 2 different programs which provide partial funding for conservation practice installation. For 2007, the Land and Water Resource Management Program was allocated \$28,000 for nutrient management plans and \$20,000 for other conservation practices. The Jefferson County Cost-Share Program has \$35,000 for conservation practices. The cost-share amount is typically 70% for practices with a \$3,000 cap for the County Program.

A variety of projects can be funded through these programs including: waterways, manure storage closure, residue management, barnyard runoff control systems, well closures, and contour farming. Most of the money for this year has been allocated, but additional money may become available to fund more practices. Selected projects receive technical assistance for practice design. A contract must be signed before any work can begin.

Please contact the Land and Water Conservation Department at 920-674-7110 to inquire about practices covered and qualifying for money, and to receive a cost-share application.

Hazardous Waste and Prescription/Outdated Drug Disposal

Each year, the Jefferson County Solid Waste and Air Quality Program schedules several dates for the collection of household, farm, and business hazardous waste. This year, the collection sites will also accept prescription drugs (including veterinarian and pet medications) for disposal. Please note that radioactive materials and sharps/needles will not be accepted.



The site location and collection dates are listed below. Registration is required by calling the phone number listed with each site. Each collection runs from 8:00 am to 11:00 am.

Saturday, April 14 – Jefferson County Fair Park, 503 N. Jackson Ave., Jefferson, 920-674-7430

Saturday, May 5 – Watertown Recycling Center, 727 W. Cady St., Watertown, 920-262-4070

Saturday, September 15 – Veolia Environmental Services, 1215 Klement St., 920-674-7430

Thursday, October 18 – Jefferson County Fair Park, 503 N. Jackson Ave., Jefferson, 920-674-7430

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LWCD Web Watch

The Wisconsin Farmers' Resource Guide (<http://datcp.state.wi.us/resguide/index.jsp>) is a directory for farmers and rural citizens to find helpful information and services offered by public and private agencies across the state. Whether you need legal aid or want to apply for a loan, seek job training or financial counseling, this guide will help you find the right person to talk to.

LWCD Staff E-Mail Addresses:

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Deb Miller-Administrative Clerk	debmi@co.jefferson.wi.us

E-Mail Address for LWCD Office

lwcd@co.jefferson.wi.us

LWCD Web Site

<http://www.co.jefferson.wi.us/lcon>

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 PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

