

# Livestock Production in Illinois

## Rules, regulations and safeguards



Illinois' Livestock Management Facilities Act (LMFA), in force since 1996, governs all new and expanded livestock farms. LMFA ensures that such farms are sited based on science and on objective criteria and that the rules are applied in a uniform way throughout the state. Farms must meet conditions concerning:

- Manure management
- Environmental protection
- Compatibility with the character of the area
- Odor control
- Traffic patterns
- Consistency with community growth and economic development

### Protecting the Environment

- The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) inspects livestock farms before, during and after construction.
- Under LMFA, farmers must be certified in manure management. Farms designed for 1,000 or more animal units must have a manure management plan certified or approved by IDOA.
- Manure must be fully contained in manure handling structures such as concrete pits that meet engineering specifications. Manure is used on cropland as an organic fertilizer. It is typically injected 6-8 inches into the soil to prevent run-off and to reduce odor.
- Farmers must report manure spills of 25 gallons or more to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) within 24 hours.
- Under state law, IEPA can inspect livestock farms to ensure they meet regulations to protect the environment. No livestock farm can operate in a way that causes, threatens or allows air, water or land pollution as defined in the Illinois Environmental Protection Act.

The overwhelming majority of livestock farms in Illinois operate as good neighbors to both nearby residents and to the environment. According to the most recent IEPA annual inspection reports, **less than 1 percent of Illinois livestock farms had any odor complaint or water pollution violations.**

### Protecting Neighbors' Rights

- LMFA establishes minimum setback requirements from the nearest residence and/or populated area.
- No reputable scientific peer-reviewed study has found any correlation to negative health impacts caused by livestock farms to neighboring residents or communities.
- Iowa State University observed air emissions around CAFOs (Confined Animal Feeding Operations) in Iowa. The study found that smoking, the presence of pets and the use of household cleaning products contribute more ammonia in homes than do nearby CAFOs.

### For More Information

Jennifer Tirey - IL Pork Producers Association  
(217) 529-3100 • jennifer@ilpork.com

Lauren Lurkins - Illinois Farm Bureau  
(309) 557-3153 • llurkins@ifb.org

[www.illinoislivestock.org](http://www.illinoislivestock.org)  
[www.ilpork.com](http://www.ilpork.com) or [www.porkcares.org](http://www.porkcares.org)  
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