

CAFO Study Group

Mission: To assess the environmental and public health impacts of large-scale livestock facilities in Crawford County. After reviewing regulatory options for CAFO oversight and analyzing existing data/ studies on our natural resources and public health, the study group will provide options to the Crawford County Board of Supervisors on how to move forward with CAFO regulation.

What is a "CAFO"?

Currently, Crawford County has a Livestock Facility Siting Ordinance that regulates any livestock operation that has 500 or more animal units (a.u.). An animal unit is equal to 1,000 pounds of animal. A facility that reaches 1,000 a.u. or more is required to obtain a Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit from the WI DNR. These facilities are also tagged with the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) title.

This table shows some of the most common types of livestock found here, the corresponding a.u. factor, and the number of those animals needed to reach the 500 a.u. permitting threshold in Crawford County.

Dairy cow	1.4	358
Beef steer	1.0	500
Pig > 55 lbs	0.4	1250
Layer chickens	0.01	50,000

Currently, Crawford County regulates two facilities under its Ch. 12.07 ordinance. One dairy farm falls between the 500-999 a.u. threshold. It was permitted in 2014. One swine facility is a DNR CAFO, which was permitted in 2007.

A livestock siting permit essentially looks at 5 components...

- 1) Animal unit calculations
- 2) Odor standard
- 3) Nutrient Management
- 4) Waste Storage Facilities
- 5) Runoff Management

If the application meets all of these standards, the county must issue a permit.

Things to consider:

ATCP 51- Wisconsin's Livestock Siting Law

12.07 Crawford County Code of Ordinances

NR 243- DNR CAFO requirements

NR 151- DNR Non-point Runoff prohibitions

Ag Zoning at Town or County level

Consider issues involved with CAFO's versus the more traditional "family farms" and impacts to health and the environment that both may have.

Existing data in Crawford County

Limited well testing data, 2020 DAWS project

Limited geological studies

Limited Nutrient Management Plan implementation

Surface water monitoring