

Land Use Team

Livestock facility siting law



Situation

As Wisconsin's population grows, suburbs and rural subdivisions are being developed in what had been an exclusively agricultural environment. At the same time, some livestock producers are considering expanding their operations. In an effort to head off conflicts, the Wisconsin legislature passed the Livestock Facility Siting Law, which encourages constructive dialogue among rural neighbors.

Response

University of Wisconsin-Extension specialists and agents offered workshops to help county and municipal officials understand the Wisconsin Livestock Facility Siting Law and bring local policy into compliance with it. Research-based educational materials and programs that build capacity among community leaders, farmers and their non-farm neighbors for making decisions and new ordinance were developed through collaboration with educational and governmental partners.

Outcomes

Working with educational partners to engage public participation in achieving a measurable, agreed upon regulatory process, UW-

Extension educators addressed the needs of both farmers and rural communities, helped build local capacity to meet these needs and supported community action.

-- More than 2,000 elected and appointed officials from 47 counties, including town and county supervisors, zoning administrators, planning commissioners, assessors, conservationists and others learned about the state's livestock facility siting law by attending the workshops.

-- Workshops in Waupaca, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Calumet and Kewaunee counties helped local officials weigh considerations for adopting the uniform standards for complying with the Wisconsin Livestock Facilities Siting Law.

-- UW-Extension county educators report that nine towns or counties have adopted new zoning ordinances and six more are in the process.

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January 2009