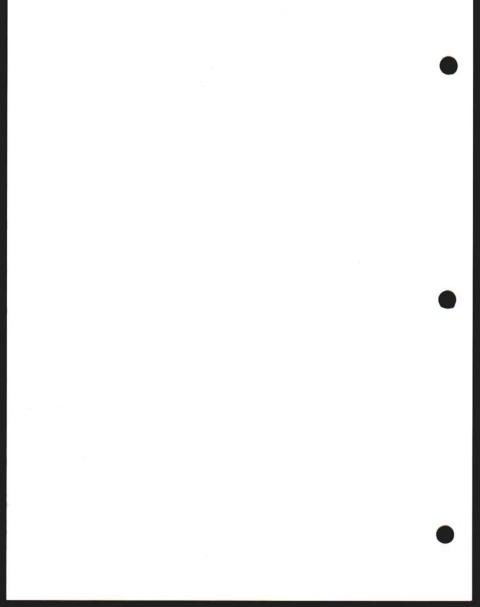
# Planning and Zoning for Animal Agriculture in Michigan:

A Handbook for Local Governments

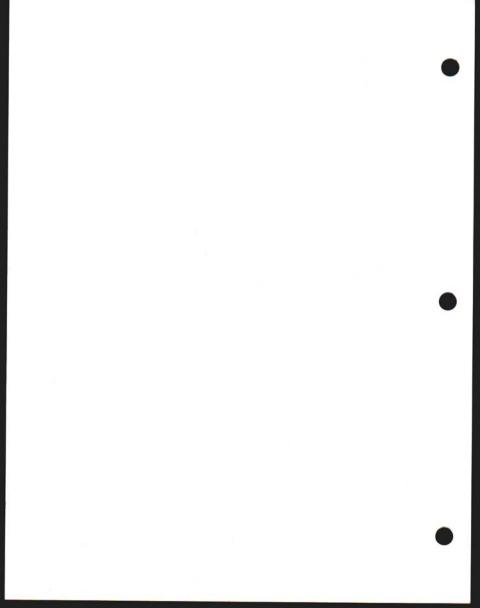
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# **Table of Contents**

Foreword 1V
Acknowledgments
Executive Summary
Chapter 1:
Introduction
Factors Shaping the Debate Over Livestock
Michigan's Agricultural Economy
The Role of Government
Chapter 2:
Planning for Animal Agriculture
Recognizing the Need
Types of Plans 2-3
Organizing the Process
Developing the Plan
Implementing the Plan
Monitoring and Updating the Plan
Conclusion
Chapter 3:
Legal Issues Involved in Rural Planning and Zoning
Planning and Implementation Authority of Local Governments
Planning and Zoning in Michigan
Constitutional and Statutory Limitations of Planning and Zoning Authority
Enforcement 3-14
Unique Aspects of Planning for and Regulating Agriculture
Zoning Authority and Agriculture 3-10
The Takings Issue and the Regulation of Agriculture 3-18
Preemption and the Regulation of Animal Agriculture
Water Quality Regulations and Animal Agriculture 3-20
Enforcement Issues



Chapter 4:
Implementation Options
The Foundation for Regulations: Separation vs. Mitigation
Separation-Based Strategies
Mitigation-Based Strategies
The Hybrid Approach
Regulatory Options 4
Zoning Districts
Special Land Uses
Use-specific Standards
Performance Standards
Nonconforming Uses
Definitions

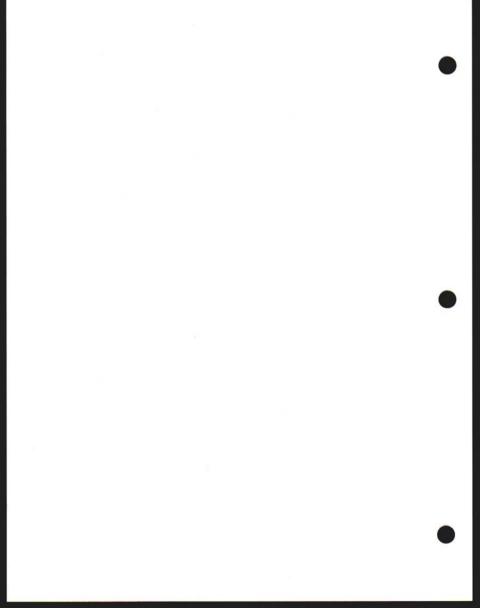
Sample Zoning Language for Animal Feeding Operations in Michigan

Appendix A: Planning Approaches

Appendix B: Information and Technical Support

Bibliography

Supporting Materials

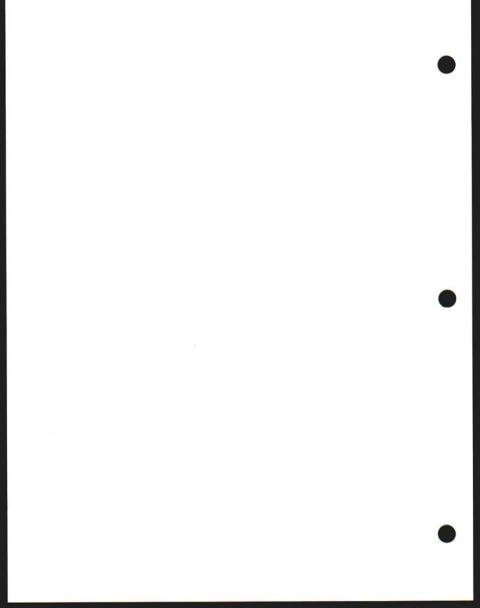


## Foreword

Many local governments in Michigan are currently attempting to address issues relating to the siting and expansion of new and existing large-scale, intensive animal production facilities. This handbook is designed to provide assistance to those units of government as they plan for animal agriculture in their jurisdictions. The handbook pulls together in one document information on planning, zoning, sources of data and detailed information important to the planning process, and examples of planning and zoning approaches.

A theme running throughout this handbook is that land use issues regarding animal agriculture are best addressed through comprehensive planning, followed by land use regulation aimed at implementing that planning. Without a background of careful planning, land use standards for large animal operations may provide only partial solutions to identified problems and may result in unintended adverse consequences for the local agricultural economy or land use trends in the community. Considering animal agriculture comprehensively, in the context of other land uses in the county or township, holds the promise of providing a more complete range of options to address these difficult and controversial issues.

In some communities, conflicts over feedlots have been particularly divisive. Local officials have the difficult and serious responsibility of striving to balance competing interests, heal divisions within their communities, and act for the common good. We hope this handbook and the assistance of Michigan State University Extension will be helpful in this important work.



# Acknowledgments

Much of the material in this handbook, Planning and Zoning for Animal Agriculture in Michigan: A Handbook for Local Governments, is based on a similar document produced for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture by James Duncan and Associates, in association with Iowa State University's Department of Community and Regional Planning. That original document, Planning and Zoning for Animal Agriculture in Minnesota: A Handbook for Local Government, was written by Eric Damian Kelly, AICP, Kirk R. Bishop and Stuart Huntington, AICP.

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