

# Planning and Zoning for Animal Agriculture in Michigan:

## A Handbook for Local Governments

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION



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## 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.





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