

Town of Spider Lake
 Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Ordinance
 Frequently Asked Questions

Agricultural Operations ordinances require large livestock operators to make plans that protect a town citizens' health and property values. Existing Wisconsin laws and regulations leave huge gaps in protection, as can be seen below:

CAFO Operations Ordinance vs Wisconsin Laws & Regulations		
	Existing Laws & Regulation	Operations Ordinance
Enforcement	Taxpayers pay costs. Inspections only done every 5 years.	Permittee pays all costs for regular enforcement
Manure Storage Plan	Permittee self-reporting	Permittee pays all costs for regular enforcement
Manure Spreading Plan	Permittee self-reporting	Permittee pays all costs for regular enforcement
Air Pollution Controls	Not required	Required
Infectious Disease Plan	Not required	Required
Carcass Disposal plan	Not required	Required
Biosecurity Plan	Not required	Required
Road Plan	Not required	Required
Water Use Plan	Not required	Required
Impact on Property Value Analysis	Not required	Required
Fire Response Plan	Not required	Required
Financial Bond if Factory Closes	Not required	Required

Some Frequently Asked Questions are below:

Q: Why do towns need a CAFO Operations Ordinance?

Wisconsin towns are the target of global corporate interests who want to take local control over their livestock factories away from the local municipalities.

Without an operations ordinance, developers can put thousands of hogs near prime recreational areas or hundreds of feet from a neighbor's house. They can spread millions of gallons of raw feces, urine and tissues over thousands of acres.

The investment your family has made in your property is at risk should a CAFO be sited in the Town. For example, property values in Green County, WI dropped by 27% when the hogs moved in. Other communities have seen drops substantially larger.

Q: Do we really need to worry about CAFOs coming into our Wisconsin town?

There is nothing hypothetical about attempts to build new and expanded CAFOs in Wisconsin towns. Federal and state governmental policies encourage investors to

build bigger and buy more and more land to spread millions of gallons of raw feces, urine and contaminated process water across the landscape.

Powerful lobby groups, like the [Farm Bureau](#), work across farming communities to make sure that there is little to no regulation.

Q: What do operations ordinances require? Do they ban CAFOs?

Operations ordinances do not ban CAFOs. If a large livestock factory wants to move in, the applicants have to submit plans laying out how they will manage manure, air pollution, water usage, carcass disposal, biosecurity, fire protection and road damage. The intent of the ordinance is ensure public health, natural resources and property values are not negatively impacted if and when large operations want to move to the Town.

The applicants will have to pay for enforcement of their plans. In addition, they must post a bond to cover any clean up if they go out of business.

Q: Won't state laws protect us?

State laws do very little. DNR's large livestock regulations cover manure but enforcement is almost non-existent. An operation in St. Croix County spilled 275,000 gallons before a whistleblower turned them in. A Kewaunee County plant plans to spread manure on 16,000 acres but refuses to monitor water quality on even one field.

There is no limit to how big these operations can get. In Door County WI, the DNR is considering a permit that will allow an operator to create 95 million gallons of raw manure and feces and another 1,200 tons of solids. They want to spread waste on more than 10,000 acres.

State laws do not require these factories to submit plans for controlling air pollution, even though fans continuously so the animals don't die from the hydrogen sulfide and ammonia fumes.

Q: Will an operations ordinance cover our current small farmers?

Each town can decide how big a livestock factory to cover with the ordinance. Most towns cover factories with more than 700 animal units. For example, to be covered existing farms would have to have more than 87,500 chickens, 38,500 turkeys, 490 dairy cows or 1,750 hogs. The Town of Spider Lake does not currently have any operations meeting the threshold within the new ordinance, so there is no impact to any existing Ag operators.

Q: Why is the Town of Spider Lake using a template created in the western region of Wisconsin? Why is the Wisconsin Chamber using proxies to take legal action against the Town of Eureka?

Six neighboring Wisconsin towns (Bone Lake, Eureka, Laketown, Luck, Sterling and Trade Lake in Polk County) formed a partnership to develop a model operations ordinance. It is newer than our neighbors' ordinances (Bayfield County and Town of

Round Lake) and reflects local Findings of Fact as well as the most complete compilation of scientific citations attached to an ordinance of this nature. A panel of legal, environmental and engineering experts guided development of the model ordinance that each town then crafted to fit their circumstances.

Sawyer County has chosen not to address this issue, so the Town of Spider Lake will join its neighboring Town of Round Lake to proactively put requirements in place for any planned CAFO operations. Big livestock factory owners do not want local control over these plants. Threat of a lawsuit has been filed by two residents represented by the WMC Litigation Center (the legal arm of Wisconsin's largest business association, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce) against the Town of Eureka, claiming potential harm. Their lawsuit is the latest of many attacks around the state to intimidate local officials. The law firms of Bassford Remele and Fredrikson consider the case to be so important that they are defending the Town of Eureka at no cost.