

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why has the government made changes to the planning for livestock?

Livestock developments are an important driver of Manitoba's economy. There is key provincial interest in ensuring the sustainable expansion of the livestock sector.

2. Where can I obtain a Site Assessment Form?

On-line at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/mr/livestock/index.html>

3. What assistance is available to the project proponent in completing a Site Assessment Form?

Proponents are encouraged to contact Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development at 204-918-0325 to discuss the nature of their proposal, Animal Units and land base. Proponents needing technical assistance should consider hiring a consultant to help complete the Site Assessment Form. Additional assistance may also be provided by provincial departments identified in the Site Assessment Form.

4. Generally how long does the livestock technical review process take?

The length of the process will depend on the complexity of the proposal and the comments received. Once a completed Site Assessment Form and supporting documents are received, the goal is to have most reviews completed within 60 days.

5. What is involved in the review process?

Refer to "[About the Livestock Technical Review Process](#)".

6. How does the public comment on a Site Assessment?

The review process for each Site Assessment includes a 30-day public commenting period. Public comments are posted on the [Public Registry](#), passed on to the proponent for response and included in summary form in the Technical Review Committee (TRC) Report. Public representations may also be made during the Conditional Use hearing, which takes place following submission of the TRC Report to the municipality.

7. Given that as of June 2018, municipalities were enabled to raise their conditional use thresholds higher than 300 Animal Units, will a provincial

livestock technical review still be required if a municipality chooses to raise their threshold?

A provincial livestock technical review will continue to be triggered by the requirement for a municipal conditional use approval for any livestock operation that is 300 AU or greater. For example, if a municipality raises its conditional use threshold from 300 to 500 AU, then a technical review is required for livestock operations that are 500 AU or greater. Regardless of where a municipality chooses to set their conditional use threshold, livestock operations 300 AU or greater are still required to meet all environmental safeguards and provincial regulatory requirements.

8. As of June 2018, why are operations allowed to replace, alter or expand farm buildings housing livestock without requiring a provincial technical review or conditional use hearing?

Many farm buildings in Manitoba are reaching the end of their natural life cycle and need to be upgraded or replaced to meet modern standards. It was determined to be reasonable for existing operations in compliance with local and provincial requirements, to only require construction-related approvals.

9. As of June 2018, why are operations that are allowed to replace, alter or expand their farm buildings housing livestock permitted to increase their Animal Units by up to 15%?

It was determined that producers that are renewing and modernizing livestock housing should be provided opportunity for limited expansion of their operations. The new 15% expansion potential mirrors the new 15% threshold for minor variances.

10. Would changing (altering) the manure storage facility (or its cover) for a livestock operation be eligible for an exemption from an additional conditional use approval and provincial technical review?

The exemption only applies to an existing farm building that houses livestock. It does not apply to any building or structure that does not house livestock.

- *Note:* A proponent could change the type of covering without a further conditional use approval, if the condition originally imposed in the Conditional Use Order did not specify the type or material of the covering.

11. Who qualifies for the exemption?

Existing livestock operations in compliance with their Conditional Use Order (and all other local and provincial requirements) would be exempted. Requiring operations to undergo a new provincial technical review and conditional use process would be redundant. Both occupied and unoccupied farm buildings qualify for the exemption. Operations that have not obtained a Conditional Use Order are not eligible for the exemption.* Eligible operations may change the type of production (e.g. beef backgrounder to beef feeder cattle) within a category of livestock. Changes from one category of livestock to another (e.g. beef to sheep) are not eligible for the exemption.

**The owner of a livestock operation that is deemed a conditional use upon the adoption of a zoning by-law, may apply for a zoning memorandum that provides formal recognition of the operation's pre-existence (Section 85). Operations with zoning memorandums should be eligible for exemption consideration. Owners with projects involving proposed Animal Unit increases are required to provide confirmation of their operation's size at the time of the zoning by-law adoption.*

12. What local and provincial requirements would still need to be met by someone who qualifies for the exemption?

Projects exempted from provincial technical reviews and local conditional use requirements are still obligated to obtain any necessary local and provincial approvals such as variances and development permits, building permits and licenses.

13. In what ways may an operator use the original farm building once the replacement has been built?

An existing farm building that is to be replaced by a new farm building may continue to be used while the replacement building is being constructed, but may not be used to house livestock once the replacement building is substantially complete.

14. As of June 2018, why was the wait time reduced from 30 days to 14 days before a Municipality could hold the conditional use hearing, after receiving the provincial technical review report?

The Government recognized that the provincial technical review report is accessible to all stakeholders on the Provincial Public Registry several weeks before the holding of the public hearing. The need to wait a full 30 days was deemed excessive and a change to 14 days was consistent with the process timing for all other conditional use matters.

15. As of November 1, 2019, why have municipal conditional use decisions and their related conditions become appealable to the Municipal Board?

This provision is intended to provide opportunity for livestock producers to have their proposal heard by an impartial third party if they believe their application was a) denied despite being compliant with local planning by-laws or b) approved with a condition(s) deemed unreasonable.