

# Rebuilding or Relocating a Livestock Operation



This factsheet is a summary of information to consider when rebuilding or relocating a Confined Feeding Operation (CFO), wintering site or livestock corral. Technical and financial assistance may be available to support these types of projects. For more information or if you have questions, please contact the CFO specialist listed below.

## What is a confined feeding operation?

- A CFO is a fenced or enclosed land or building where livestock are confined for the purposes of growing, sustaining, finishing or breeding by means other than grazing, and any other building or structure directly related to that purpose. A CFO does not include residences, grazing livestock operations, livestock seasonal feeding and bedding sites, equestrian stables, auction markets, race tracks or exhibition grounds.
- A CFO may require a permit for the following:
  - A manure storage facility – a facility for composting or storing manure, composting materials or compost.
  - A manure collection area – the floor of a barn, the under-floor pits of a barn, the floor of a feedlot pen and a catch basin where manure runoff collects but does not include the floor of a livestock corral.

## What do you need to do if you are looking at rebuilding or relocating facilities?

1. Contact a CFO extension specialist for a site assessment or assistance with the permit application process if required.
  - a. Ask about funding programs available for project support
2. Contact the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) to determine if your operation requires a permit.

## What you should take into consideration if rebuilding or relocating facilities?

- Flood Plain:
  - Manure storage facility or manure collection area.
    - The 1:25 year maximum flood level at a manure storage facility or manure collection area must not be less than one metre below any part of the facility where run-on can come into contact with the stored manure.
- Water Well Location:
  - Manure storage facilities and collection areas must be constructed 100 m away from a spring or water well.
- Waterways:
  - Manure storage facilities or manure collection areas must be constructed 30 m away from a common body of water.
- Run-On and Runoff of a New Site:
  - Surface control systems are required to minimize run-on flowing through and runoff leaving a manure storage facility or manure collection area.

- These systems must not significantly alter regular water flow, must not affect or alter a non-flowing water body and must not be located on a fish-bearing water body.
- Water Supply
  - Permitted CFO's require a licensed water well. You will need to contact Environment and Sustainable Resource Development for more information.

**What is a wintering site?**

- A wintering site is a field location where livestock are fed during winter. It is not a grazing pasture.

**What do you need to do if you are looking at rebuilding or relocating your wintering site or livestock corral?**

1. Contact a CFO extension specialist to help review site considerations
  - a. Ask about funding programs available for project support

**What you should take into consideration if rebuilding or relocating?**

- Soil Type:
  - Avoid areas with sandy soil that may impact ground water from nutrient leaching.
- Nutrient accumulation:
  - Manure accumulation at a wintering site must be managed to avoid nutrient loss from runoff. Consider examining feeding strategy, frequency of site use for wintering and previous use of the site.
- Flooding:
  - A wintering site location should avoid areas impacted by flooding caused by spring runoff, heavy rains or overflowing of rivers or streams
- Run-on and runoff control:
  - Management of surface water onto and from a winter site will reduce the risk of nutrients leaving the property. Consider placement options of feed, bedding, shelter and watering areas.
- Water Source
  - Water sources should be protected from impacts by livestock. Alternative water sources should be identified as well.

**Contact Information:**

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