



A few facts about hogs...

Laws, Rules & Regulations

Because truth matters to all Manitobans

Hog farming is one of the most regulated activities in Manitoba. Manitoba's hog farms are required to follow numerous provincial and federal laws and regulations, as well as local by-laws and requirements.

What laws and regulations control hog farming in Manitoba?

Manitoba hog farmers must follow Manitoba's Environment Act (specifically the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Regulation), Water Rights Act, Planning Act, Animal Care Act, Pesticides and Fertilizer Control Act, Animal Diseases Act and Farm Practices Protection Act.

Farmers must also follow the federal Animal Care Act and Fisheries Act, as well as municipal development plans and zoning by-laws.

What is being done to protect water quality and supply?

The province recently introduced legislation further safeguarding the quality of drinking water in Manitoba. Government initiatives saw the establishment of the Office of Drinking Water, the re-introduction of subsidized water testing for private well owners and the certification of drinking water operators. And since 2001 the provincial government invested \$31.2 million to upgrade water systems. All of this helps reinforce existing regulations to provide a safe, clean water supply for all existing and future users. It is also important to note that a Water Rights License is required for all activities that use 25,000 litres or more of water per day.

What does the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Regulation control?

The Livestock Manure and Mortalities Regulation (MR 42/98) governs the storage, transportation and land application of livestock manure, the storage and disposal of livestock mortalities and mandates the filing of manure management plans by livestock operations over a certain size. The current regulation requires that all operations of 400 animal units (AU) or greater (a 2800 head hog feeder barn or 800 feeder calves) must file a plan on an annual basis with Manitoba Conservation. The province now proposes to lower that threshold to 300 AU (2100 feeder hogs or 600 feeder calves).

Has the provincial government strengthened environmental monitoring and provincial regulations?

Between the release of the Livestock Stewardship Report in December of 2000 and mid-July 2002, the government changed several laws and regulations governing animal agriculture.

- The province has created 20 additional positions and provided an additional \$2.6 million for monitoring, enforcement and inspection of manure storage facilities. All earthen manure storages built since 1994, and all concrete and steel storages built since 1998 are inspected annually.
- Provincial incentives have resulted in most municipalities now being involved in enhanced local land use planning to guide future development in a sound and sustainable manner. In addition, local and provincial approvals must be in place before construction can start.

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- The provincial ground water database has recently been upgraded and is now an additional tool to be used in livestock siting decisions.
- The Pesticides and Fertilizers Control Act is also being strengthened to require custom manure applicators to be certified and provincially licensed. In addition only professional agrologists will be allowed to prepare third-party manure management plans.

Further, in their July 22nd formal response to the recommendations of the Livestock Stewardship Report, the province announced several additional improvements to the livestock review and approval process to occur over the next 12 to 18 months.

- The province will now require local development plans to clearly define areas where livestock development is permitted, restricted and prohibited.
- The province will introduce consistent standards regarding siting, setback and separation distances for livestock operations across the province. Municipalities will be able to vary the provincial standards to take into account local conditions.
- Government will introduce a new standard review process for all livestock operations over 300 AU that will replace the current conditional use process. The new process will require public notice, a local hearing and a technical review committee report before the local municipality can make a decision.
- Additionally, the province will strengthen environmental laws for livestock by ensuring that all livestock operations of 300 AU or more meet stricter environmental regulations – a standard that currently is required of operators of 400 AU or more. This will affect all new operations after next spring.
- Effective spring 2003, all new and existing livestock operations over 300 AU will be required to submit annual source water test results from an accredited laboratory.
- The government will also raise the profile of the Farm Practices Protection Board and its nuisance dispute mediation process.

What is the effect of these laws, rules and regulations?

These laws, rules and regulations will help ensure that agriculture remains socially, economically and environmentally sustainable. Hopefully hog farming will continue to figure prominently in the mix of agricultural activities. It is noteworthy that in 2001, pigs represented more than \$850 million in farm gate receipts, nearly 25% of the provincial total. In that same year, hog farming generated more than \$2 billion for the provincial economy and employed 15,000 people directly. The bottom line is that sustainable and responsible agriculture makes for a stronger more vibrant Manitoba.

References & Further Information

Manitoba Agriculture & Food:	www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/
Manitoba Conservation:	www.gov.mb.ca/natres/
Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs:	www.gov.mb.ca/ia/
Manitoba Farm Practices Protection Board:	www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/programs/aaa25s03.html
Manitoba Pork Council:	www.manitobapork.com

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