IADG Pre-Forum Workshop
Coalition Services
August 2, 2018

www.supportfarmers.com • 800.932.2436
Coalition to Support Iowa’s Farmers: a team effort
What We Do

No cost AND confidential services for Iowa farm families

- Help find good sites
- Interpret rules and regulations
- Grow Iowa’s livestock industry responsibly & successfully
- Develop positive neighbor relations
- Implement BMPs… like tree plantings!

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What We Are Seeing Today

- Livestock!
  - Cautious Optimism
  - Diversification
  - Young people returning
  - Growth on existing farms
  - New projects on crop farms
  - Livestock being added on farms that haven’t had any for 2-3 generations
What We Are Hearing Today

- Commodity prices, both livestock and grains are impacting expansion.
- Diversification is the key term mentioned by farmers looking at expanding in livestock.
- Farmers are curious about if/when the rules will change.
- Farmers want to discuss options.
#Trending

- **Beef**
  - Cattle coming back to Iowa
  - Cattle moving into confinement
    - Fed cattle
    - Cows

- **Dairy**
  - Slow due to milk prices
    - On-farm processing
#Trending

- **Swine**
  - Integrators looking to grow - need farmers

- **Poultry/Turkey Growth**
  - Costco plant in Nebraska placing barns in west central Iowa
#Trending

- Shrimp Farming
- Fish Farming
- Outside interest in processing opportunities for shrimp and fish
Considerations for Livestock Farms
It’s not getting any easier...

• New livestock and poultry barns
  – Financing issues
  – Finding good sites

• EPA & DNR compliance
  – DNR is finishing up the WPA
  – EPA still visiting Iowa farms

• Neighbor relations issues
  – Written vs. unwritten rules
  – Must have a plan
  – Communication is Mandatory!
Written AND Unwritten Rules

- **Written Rules**
  - More than 250 pages of rules & regs
  - Separation distances, MMPs, construction design statements/ construction permits & more!
  - Combine animal units of different species when in confinement
  - Confusion between state and federal rules and how they apply to Iowa’s livestock farms
Unwritten Rules

• Meeting Iowa’s separation distances does not protect your farm from nuisance suits
• Prevailing winds impact siting (CAM model - hog barns)
• Must identify best sites to build on for today and tomorrow
Doing Things Right – the CSIF Way

- Never too early to start planning
- Sit down with the farm family 3-6 months out
- Look ahead
- Develop a plan
- Farmer must tell their story to neighbors and the community - new, growing or maintaining
Neighbor Relations: Critical To Grow Your Farm

- This will be key moving forward in Iowa
- Whether you are adding livestock to your farm for the first time, growing your existing farm, or maintaining the status quo, you must talk to your neighbors
- Provide the correct information before the rumors start
Why Does It Matter?
Enhancing Neighbor Relations
Green Farmstead Partner Program

- Assists farmers in planting windbreaks on livestock farms
- Partnership with Trees Forever and INLA
- Network of 26 landscapers
If You Can’t See It, You Can’t Smell It
Iowa Select Farms Partnership
Wergin Good Farm Neighbor Awards

- **2018 Awards**
  - January: Taylor County
  - February: Iowa County
  - March: Cedar County
  - April: Humboldt County
  - May 4: Washington County
  - May 30: Howard County
  - June 5: Van Buren County
  - June 19: Calhoun County

Nominate your Neighbor at: www.supportfarmers.com
Stay Connected with the Coalition

- Website – www.supportfarmers.com
  - New farmer testimonials, upcoming events, new information and updates impacting farmers today
- Iowa Livestock Insider Newsletter
  - Sign up: www.supportfarmers.com/newsletter
- Green Farmstead Partner program blog
  - http://greenfarmstead.blogspot.com
- Twitter
  - @supportfarmers
- Facebook
  - Coalition to Support Iowa’s Farmers
Questions?

Coalition to Support Iowa’s Farmers

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