

June 3, 2015

Village of Nobleford
P.O. Box 67
Nobleford AB T0L 1S0

Re: application regarding a confined feeding operation

Dear Village of Nobleford:

The Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) has received an application to expand a confined feeding operation in your area. The NRCB has the responsibility to ensure all applications meet the technical standards and requirements of the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act (AOPA)*, as explained further in the attached fact sheet.

The purpose of AOPA is to ensure that the province's livestock industry can grow to meet the opportunities presented by local and world markets in an environmentally sustainable manner. The applicant, Grandview Cattle Feeders Ltd., has the responsibility to meet the requirements of AOPA.

The development that Grandview Cattle Feeders Ltd. are proposing in their application, LA15013 on W½ 4-11-22 W4M include: to construct additional feedlot pens and increase animal numbers from 20,000 beef finishers to 26,500 beef finishers.

The NRCB is the delegated authority to regulate confined feeding operations in Alberta. The NRCB will be conducting a detailed technical review of the application to ensure regulations and environmental standards are achieved. However, if you would like to submit a statement in writing that expresses your support or concern with the confined feeding operation, please send it to my attention at the Southern Region NRCB office. Your statement must be received in writing on or before July 2, 2015.

If you decide to submit a statement of support or concern, please include:

- your name
- the legal land description of your residence and/or landholdings
- contact information (your mailing address, phone number and fax number) and
- a detailed summary of your support or concern (how you are directly affected)

Please be aware that your statement is a public document. A copy will also be given to the applicant.

The application can be viewed on line at www.nrcb.ca or at the office of the NRCB in Lethbridge or at the office of Lethbridge County during regular business hours. The official notice of the application will be advertised in the June 9, 2015 issue of the Sunny South News. For more detailed information, please contact me 403-381-5208.

Yours truly,



Karen Stewart
Approval Officer

Att'd



CONFINED FEEDING OPERATIONS

What are the responsibilities of the Natural Resources Conservation Board?

The NRCB is responsible for reviewing applications to construct or expand confined feeding operations, and for monitoring and enforcing compliance with the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act*. The Board of the NRCB hears appeals of field decisions. The NRCB can also provide mediation services.

What is a confined feeding operation?

Confined feeding operations are usually dairies, cattle feedlots, hog facilities, poultry barns or mixed livestock operations. They include small family-run operations and larger enterprises, and are an important part of Alberta's local and export economy.

Confined feeding operations need a permit under the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* if they have more than the minimum number of animals outlined in the regulations.

The NRCB has records of permits for close to 1500 confined feeding operations in Alberta. Alberta also has some confined feeding operations built before 2002 that did not require permits. As these operations build new structures or expand their animal numbers, they are required to obtain a Natural Resources Conservation Board permit.

What laws govern confined feeding operations?

Confined feeding operations must comply with the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* and any other legislation that has authority over the operation – for example the *Health Act*, the *Water Act*, the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, the *Livestock Diseases Act* and the *Transportation Act*. The *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* includes technical standards and regulations to protect the environment from contamination.

How are applications for confined feeding operations reviewed?

The public is always notified of applications to increase the capacity of a confined feeding operation. Each application is carefully reviewed to ensure it meets the requirements of AOPA, which includes provisions to protect the environment. The NRCB also sends a copy of the application to the municipal district or county, the local health authority, and other regulatory authorities that could be involved with the operation (for example, Alberta Environment if a water license is required).

All responses, including statements of concern or support, are carefully reviewed before a decision is issued. Decision summaries are sent to every person and authority that responds to the application.

Applications to build a new structure without increasing capacity are sent to the municipal district or county and any other regulatory authority that could be involved with the operation. Because animal numbers are not being increased, the NRCB does not advertise the application or send courtesy letters.

Approval officers do not approve an application unless it meets the requirements of the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* and is consistent with the land use planning provisions of the municipal development plan.

If I have questions about a confined feeding operation in my area, who should I contact?

The *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* deals with the storage and handling of manure. If you have questions about manure handling at a local operation, call the closest NRCB regional office:

Fairview	780-835-7111*
Morinville	780-939-1212*
Red Deer	403-340-5241*
Lethbridge	403-381-5166*

*dial 310-0000 to be connected toll free