

Introduction

In the past, airborne emissions were considered only a minor drawback for livestock and poultry production operations. However, with the trend toward larger, more concentrated production operations, odors and other airborne emissions are rapidly becoming an important issue for all animal producers. Shifting population distributions; the unwillingness of many to tolerate odors, gases, and dust emitted from animal production; and the economic importance of animal agriculture in the United States all contribute to the urgent need for stakeholders to find adequate solutions to these issues. A prerequisite to good solutions, however, is a thorough understanding of the issue. The first step to understanding these issues involves a self-assessment of community and neighbor issues (see Appendix A). Additional self-assessment tools in this and later lessons will further assist you with an evaluation of your facilities and management practices.

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