

THE MASTER MATRIX

The Master Matrix is a tool that legislators developed in 2002 for supervisors and the public to weigh in on the construction of factory farms in their communities.

Every county must re-adopt the Master Matrix resolution each January to use it.

What's the process?

1. Factory farms must apply for a construction permit from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The developer submits paperwork – including the Master Matrix, Manure Management Plan, and construction permit application – to both the county auditor and DNR.
2. The county has 14 days to notify the public of the application, and they have the option to hold a public forum.
3. The county has 30 days to review, independently score, and send its recommendation to the DNR. The DNR will not consider a county's denial unless they score the Master Matrix below 440 out of 880 points.
4. The DNR makes the final decision within 30 days of receiving the county's recommendation. Their decision is based on compliance with CAFO regulations and the Master Matrix.
5. If the DNR approves the application, then the county has 14 days to appeal the decision to the Environmental Protection Commission (EPC).
6. The EPC has 35 days to decide whether they will affirm, deny, or modify the permit based on information from the county, the DNR, and the developer.

Why is it important?

The Master Matrix is one of the few ways counties and citizens can weigh in on factory farm construction in their communities. Without it, there is virtually no way for the county to provide input and say no. Without counties and citizens scrutinizing the Master Matrix, DNR approves nearly every factory farm application that meets the bare minimum requirements.

The Master Matrix isn't perfect. In fact, county supervisors across the state are beginning to stand up and demand changes from the legislature.

- The Master Matrix is not true local control: the DNR has the ultimate say whether or not factory farm applications get approved or denied.
- The Master Matrix is extremely lax in regulations. Fifty percent — an "F" by most standards — is considered a passing grade.

Iowa will continue to see an expansion of the factory farm industry for years to come, especially following the approval of two massive hog slaughterhouses in north central and northwest Iowa. That makes it all the more imperative that supervisors understand and scrutinize the Master Matrix in order to protect their community's health and environment.

There's a better way forward!

There's a lot at stake: family farms, our environment, public health, and the prosperity of our rural communities. County supervisors can be part of the solution to change Iowa's broken system that has deregulated the factory farm industry and caused a \$5 billion water crisis in our state.

There's a lot more than the Master Matrix that needs to be fixed. We need:

- True local control over the approval, denial, and siting of factory farms.
- A moratorium on new and expanding factory farms until Iowa has fewer than 100 polluted waterways.
- Local and state politicians who put People and Planet First — not corporations.

Questions? Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement is a resource during this process. Our members have looked at hundreds of applications and can help supervisors critically read the Master Matrix. Give us a call at (515) 282-0484.

RESOLUTION # _____

CONSTRUCTION EVALUATION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Iowa Code section 459.304(3) sets out the procedure if a board of supervisors wishes to adopt a “construction evaluation resolution” relating to the construction of a confinement feeding operation structure; and

WHEREAS, only counties that have adopted a construction evaluation resolution can submit to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) an adopted recommendation to approve or disapprove a construction permit application regarding a proposed confinement feeding operation structure; and

WHEREAS, by adopting a construction evaluation resolution the board of supervisors agrees to evaluate every construction permit application for a proposed confinement feeding operation structure received by the board of supervisors between February 1, 2017 and January 31, 2018 and submit an adopted recommendation regarding that application to the DNR; and

WHEREAS, the board of supervisors must conduct an evaluation of every construction permit application using the master matrix created in Iowa Code section 459.305, but the board’s recommendation to the DNR may be based on the final score on the master matrix or may be based on reasons other than the final score on the master matrix;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF _____ COUNTY that the Board of Supervisors hereby adopts this construction evaluation resolution pursuant to Iowa Code section 459.304(3).

Chair, Board of Supervisors

Date: _____

ATTEST:

County Auditor

Date: _____

Send this signed resolution to Iowa DNR by January 31. Fax to 515.725.8202 Attn: Gene Tinker or mail to Gene Tinker, IDNR, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0034.