



Community Checklist

Use this Community Checklist to ensure your group covers the basic tasks required to successfully confront a factory farm. Time pressure may prevent you from doing each checklist item as thoroughly as you would like. There is more detailed information about each checklist item in the Community Guide, available on-line at <http://communityguide.beyondfactoryfarming.org> or from the Beyond Factory Farming office (phone 1-877-955-6454).

✓ Learn About Intensive Livestock Operations

- Begin to educate yourselves. Read the relevant sections of the Community Guide.
- Get a copy of the application and your areas bylaws as they apply to intensive livestock operations.

Research

- See www.beyondfactoryfarming.org
- Call the Beyond Factory Farming office for material at 1-877-955-6454
- Make notes of dates and conversations you may have. Find out who (which level of government, which agency) has decision-making power for this ILO
- Have a positive vision for alternatives to factory farming
- Educate yourself and your community on sustainable solutions to factory farming

✓ Get Organized

- Organize a group and assign yourself a positive name
- Always put your group name on any public information. ie. flyers, posters
- Assign duties including Spokesperson, Officers (Treasurer, Secretary, etc.), Researchers
- Set up a bank account
- Develop a system to handle finances and expenses

Take Care of Business

- Determine a regular meeting time
- Decide whether to incorporate or not
- Set up a system to keep accurate records
- Develop an overall action plan
- Draft a detailed timeline so you can anticipate and plan for the future
- Remember to celebrate successes, share the workload, and plan for fun so as to prevent burnout

✓ Organize Your Community

Before Any Meeting

- Create an agenda
- Advertise or invite people

Develop a Communications, Outreach and Media Strategy

Communicate to get your message out and bring more people on side with you. Here are a few ways to do that:

- Host a public informational meeting to raise awareness
- Invite public officials
- Videotape your public meeting
- Designate someone to chair the meeting who isn't afraid to let someone know if they are getting out of hand. Opinions may be given and questions may be asked as long as they are not made in an attacking manner
- Reach out to allies and work with them
- Develop a petition
- Build coalitions with nearby communities who may have gone through this
- Create a flyer or brochure
- Establish your own list-serve
- Create a web site
- Collect testimonials
- Set up meetings with local officials
- Submit letters of concern to local officials (keep copies of anything you distribute.)

Fundraise

- Discuss money matters: how much do you need and why
- Determine types of fundraising to undertake
- Submit proposals for grants

✓ Press and Media

- Develop a strategy for how to work with the media
- Build relationships with reporters and editors
- Learn how to write and distribute press releases
- Write letters to the editor and opinion pieces (op eds)—Get your opinions out there!

✓ Dissect The ILO Proposal

Gather information about the area, the proposed project and the by-laws and regulations that apply to it.

Local Sources:

- Land Titles Office
- Review council minutes of any meetings held with proponents
- Municipality, County, Municipal District, Planning District, Zoning Commission bylaws and/or resolutions for:
 - planning
 - zoning
 - health
 - manure management
 - ILO permitting
 - environmental protection

Provincial Sources:

- Department of Health or Office of Chief Medical Health Officer (provincial)
- Department of Environment
- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Industry
- Department of Water
- Department of Agriculture
- Conservation Districts or Watershed Authorities

Federal Sources:

Currently the federal government provides limited oversight for ILO development, however many of the agencies listed below will provide technical and research materials.

- National Water Research Institute www.nwri.ca
- Geological Survey of Canada gsc.nrcan.gc.ca
- Environment Canada www.ec.gc.ca
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca
- Natural Resources Canada www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca
- National Research Council www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada www.agr.gc.ca
- Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) www.agr.gc.ca/pfra
- Canadian Food and Inspection Agency www.inspection.gc.ca
- Canadian Environment Assessment Agency/Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca
- Public Health Agency of Canada www.phac-aspc.gc.ca
- Statistics Canada www.statcan.ca/start.html

Logistical and General Information

Gather information relevant to assessing economic, political, environmental, social and health impacts this project could have in your area. Here are some things to look into:

- Proposed developer
- Type of facility (hog, dairy, poultry, etc.)
- Number of animals proposed at facility
- Municipality or county of the proposed facility
- Structure of the local government

Surrounding Geography

- Nearest city/town and current population
- Location of nearest highway
- Location of nearest railroad
- Location of nearest grain elevator
- List nearby entities that will be affected by the ILO including residences, established businesses, schools, day care centers, nursing homes, churches, and tourism sites including parks, recreational areas, swimming and fishing areas.
- Nearest hospital

✓ Assess The ILO's Potential Impact On The Water, Land And Air

Water

Identify, locate and/or describe:

- all surface waters near manure application sites and manure storage site(s)
- nearest intermittent stream and/or drainage ditch
- downstream surface water bodies that may suffer from the over-application of nutrients
- potential for area to become flooded in heavy rain fall events or spring run-off
- nearby drinking water sources (wells and surface water)
- abandoned or uncapped wells on site or in land to be used for manure spreading
- sinkholes, mining sites or gravel pits in the vicinity
- information regarding aquifers (capacity, quality of water, direction of flow, recharge areas)
- source water protection plans for/in the area
- wetlands protected under provincial legislation or the UN Ramsar Convention
www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/publications/habitat/ramconv/wheree.cfm
- wetlands that may need protection
- information regarding sensitive areas (or pollution zones)

- type of manure storage facility (earthen with clay liner, earthen with synthetic liner, above ground, compost pile)
- water quality monitoring wells installed
- source of water for washing barns or watering livestock
- adequacy of supply of water available for the project (or lack thereof)
- water license or water permit required or issued
- watershed planning activities in the region

Land

Identify, locate and/or describe:

- the proponent's Nutrient (Manure) Management Plan
- type of crops grown in the area
- amount of nutrients to be applied to the land (nitrogen and phosphorus)
- permits or certification required for manure management
- acres and location of land available for manure spreading
- tenure status of land for manure spreading (rented or owned)
- duration of any existing manure spreading contracts or agreements and who is responsible or liable for the application of manure
- whether manure plans require certification from a professional agrologist
- how will manure be applied
- how, and how far will manure be transported
- rate per acre and frequency per year of manure application
- suitability of land for manure application (soil classification, permeability, hydro-geologic conditions in the area)
- slope of land
- soil test results or soil samples
- test bore results from geophysical assessment of proposed earthen manure storage facility

Air

Identify, locate and/or describe:

- the direction and speed of prevailing winds in the area
- frequency and occurrences of air inversions
- type of cover (if any) to be used on the manure storage facility
- whether bio-filters will be installed on the ventilation stacks of the barn
- whether liquid manure will be injected into the soil and incorporated
- how often barns will be washed
- will air emissions be monitored, by whom, and how results will be reported
- any other advanced technologies proposed (such as bio-gas recovery)

Gather Baseline Information:

Know the “before” conditions in case the ILO goes ahead. Then you will be able to document changes (damage) resulting from the factory farm. You may want to:

- have your land appraised
- perform water quality tests for wells, dugouts, ponds and creeks on your property or acquire water quality data of others in the vicinity
- send a letter through a lawyer to the proponent stating your concerns and asking how they will be addressed
- determine where the environmental liability falls with each component of the factory farm operation
- ask for an environmental performance bond to be placed as a condition on the development to help offset foreseeable environmental costs
- utilize freedom of information laws to acquire some of the background information
- Check map resources such as:
 - A Geographical Profile of Manure Production in Canada tinyurl.com/yw3qtd
 - Google Maps maps.google.com/
 - Map of Very Large Farms in Canada tinyurl.com/2sa5gb

✓ **Analyse The ILO’s Economics**

Economic impacts:

- Is the proposed operator promising that the ILO will bring economic benefits to the area? And if so, what kind, and how credible are they?
- Is the proposed operator promising the ILO will buy local feed, goods, and services? And if so, how does this compare with the proponent’s track record in other communities?
- What are the wages and working conditions of jobs being promised, and are these acceptable to local workers?
- Is the ILO required to comply with provincial labour standards?
- Is workers’ compensation insurance compulsory for the ILO?
- At what rate is the ILO being taxed?
- What additional costs would the community have to cover as a result of an ILO?

Corporate Information:

- Find out about the corporation behind this proposal

- Look up the company on **www.SEDAR.com** or on your provincial corporate registry
- Do an internet search on the corporation's owners to see if they have a track record
- Find out about any loans or liens against the corporation
- Find out about loans and funding sources, especially from public sources including:
 - Provincial grants, loans, subsidies or tax incentives
 - Federal grants, loans subsidies or tax incentives
 - Local grants, tax abatements

✓ **Legal Framework**

Find out what laws, regulations, permits and other legal requirements apply to the proposal.

Local Regulations

- Local or county resolutions
- Local regulations and restrictions
- Municipal Planning commission statements
- Zoning and Land use bylaws
- Determine if ILO is a discretionary use or permitted use in your area
- Minimum distance set-backs
- Community Economic Development plans
- Health regulations
- Review the proponent's Construction Plans and Permit Applications
- Record search
- Land surveys of proposed facility by government or non-government conservation agencies or Geological Survey of Canada
- Applications or approvals for building permits
- Operating permits or other permits

Water Permits

- Review any water permits or licences issued or applied for
- Is there proposed water usage from your water supply

Provincial Legislation, Regulations and Policies

- Environmental Protection Legislation
- Watershed management /Source water protection measures

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- Municipal planning and development acts
- Public health and safety measures
- Right to Farm legislation, other agriculture legislation

Federal Legislation and Regulations

- Fisheries Act
- Canadian Environmental Protection Act
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Act
- National Pollutant Release Inventory
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency Regulations

✓ Understand And Use The Law

- Use the Freedom of Information Act to obtain information if other routes are blocked.
- Before proceeding with legal action carefully consider the pros and cons of litigation
- Review the “*Use the Legal System*” section of the Citizens’ Guide.