



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 19, 2020

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## Counties – get ready to sign up to evaluate animal confinement sites

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Kelli Book at 515-210-3408 or [Kelli.Book@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Kelli.Book@dnr.iowa.gov).

DES MOINES – DNR reminded the Iowa State Association of Counties this week that counties interested in evaluating construction permits for proposed animal feeding facilities must adopt construction evaluation resolutions.

“We wanted county boards of supervisors to have advance notice this year, since many of them are meeting remotely,” said Kelli Book, DNR attorney. “Although county boards must submit the resolution to DNR between Jan. 1 and 31 of 2021, this allows extra time for boards to consider their decision.”

On average, 88 counties pass a resolution each year, which allows them to review construction permit applications required for larger totally roofed animal feeding operations (confinements).

Producers in counties that file the resolutions must meet additional standards in their construction permits than sites in other counties. They must earn points on a master matrix by choosing a site and using practices that reduce effects on the environment and the community.

The Master Matrix development, submittal and approval process allows applicants and county supervisors to discuss options for site selection, facility type and management. The county submits a recommendation to the DNR on the permit application after reviewing the master matrix items the applicant selected.

Counties that participate in the master matrix process may accompany DNR on site visits to proposed locations. The county board of supervisors may also appeal the DNR’s preliminary approval of a permit to the Environmental Protection Commission.

County boards of supervisors may approve the resolutions at any time, but must submit resolutions between Jan. 1 and 31, 2021. Send resolutions to Kelli Book at DNR, 502 E. Ninth St., Des Moines, IA 50319 or email to [Kelli.Book@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Kelli.Book@dnr.iowa.gov). Sign-ups in January apply to permit applications DNR receives from February 2021 through January 2022.

For historical information on counties that adopted resolutions, check the DNR website at [www.iowadnr.gov/afo](http://www.iowadnr.gov/afo) and search for [master matrix](#).

More information is available from the Iowa State Association of Counties at [www.iowacounties.org](http://www.iowacounties.org).

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## DNR enforcement actions

**MEDIA CONTACT: Tamara McIntosh, DNR, at 515-725-8242 or [Tamara.McIntosh@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Tamara.McIntosh@dnr.iowa.gov).**

DES MOINES – DNR staff work with individuals, businesses and communities to help them protect our natural resources by complying with state and federal laws. This approach is very effective. In the few cases where compliance cannot be achieved, the DNR issues enforcement actions. The following list summarizes recent enforcement actions. Find the entire, original orders on DNR's website at [www.iowadnr.gov/EnforcementActions](http://www.iowadnr.gov/EnforcementActions).

### Consent Orders

A consent order is issued as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

### Humboldt County

NEW Cooperative, Inc.

Cease illegal disposal and illegal open burning of solid waste; comply with solid waste disposal and open burning laws; and pay a \$10,000 administrative penalty.

### Linn County

Andrew Mehmen

DNR agrees to move to dismiss a pending contested case involving Mr. Mehmen's Grade 1 drinking water treatment and drinking water distribution certifications contingent upon Mr. Mehmen voluntarily surrendering these same certifications; and Mr. Mehmen agrees to not seek new certifications for a period of two years.

Galen Mehmen

Comply with terms of a one-year probation of his Grade 3 drinking water treatment and drinking water distribution certifications.

### Scott County

Mike Giammetta

Rescission due to untimely death of Mr. Giammetta.

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## Air Quality permits under review

**MEDIA CONTACT: Marnie Stein, DNR, at 515-725-9525**  
or [Marnie.Stein@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Marnie.Stein@dnr.iowa.gov) for Title V permits.

DES MOINES – The DNR Air Quality Bureau has the following draft permits up for review. The permits help protect Iowans' health and air quality. DNR's permitting staff review each permit application to ensure facilities comply with state and federal air quality requirements. We encourage public comments on draft permits, providing help on how to [make effective comments](#). Submit written comments to the assigned permit writer before 4:30 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. DNR considers public comments before finalizing the permits.

### **Title V Operating Permits**

Title V Operating permits are reviewed and re-issued every five years. Facilities with a Title V permit have the potential to emit large amounts of air pollutants compared to other facilities. The five-year reviews are a federal requirement and ensure adequate monitoring is included in the permit. The DNR plans to issue Title V Operating Permits for the following facilities. Find permit details at [www.iowadnr.gov/titlev-draft](http://www.iowadnr.gov/titlev-draft).

### **Webster County**

United States Gypsum Company – 2110 Paragon Avenue, Fort Dodge.  
The application was submitted to operate their existing Gypsum Products facility. The public comment period ends Dec. 19.

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## **Iowa DNR offices closed additional day for Thanksgiving holiday**

DES MOINES, Iowa -- All Iowa Department of Natural Resources offices will be closed on Wednesday, Nov. 25 through Friday, Nov. 27. Normal business operations will resume on Monday, Nov. 30.

DNR offices will also be closed Thursday, Dec. 24 and Friday, Dec. 25 for the Christmas holiday.

Many DNR services are still available electronically, 24/7 via [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov).

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## **A note on Iowa DNR and COVID-19**

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is working with state and local officials to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and has transitioned employees to work remotely. DNR offices are closed to the public during this time and only available by appointment.

In another effort to further reduce the spread of COVID-19, the DNR is encouraging the use of the online services for submitting applications, payments and other daily tasks and interaction with DNR staff.

- [Full list of DNR's online services](#)
- [Up-to-date information on DNR services, facilities and events impacted by COVID-19](#)

- [Technical information for regulated businesses in regards to COVID-19](#)

We thank you for your patience and flexibility during this time. If you need to contact DNR staff you can reach them by email or phone or by calling 515-725-8200.