

Rationale for Developing Ranges

These draft ranges were developed starting with the number of animals. The other categories were developed using the animal numbers in order to create some sensible construction for the system.

The “Number of Animals” ranges use the Federal CAFO ranges for small, medium and large CAFOs as a starting point for WSDA range development. For operations in the open-ended, Large CAFO range, WSDA developed additional ranges. The Federal CAFO ranges are:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Large CAFO</u>	<u>Medium CAFO</u>	<u>Small CAFO</u>
Beef cattle	1,000 or more	300 to 999	less than 300
Veal	1,000 or more	300 to 999	less than 300
Mature dairy cattle	700 or more	200 to 699	less than 200
Dairy heifers	1,000 or more	300 to 999	less than 300
Swine (55 lbs or more)	2,500 or more	750 to 2,499	less than 750
Swine (less than 55 lbs)	10,000 or more	3,000 to 9,999	less than 3,000
Turkeys	55,000 or more	16,500 to 54,999	less than 16,500
Laying hens or broilers ₁	30,000 or more	9,000 to 29,999	less than 9,000
Laying hens ₂	82,000 or more	25,000 to 81,999	less than 25,000
Chickens except laying hens	125,000 or more	37,500 to 124,999	less than 37,500
Ducks ₁	5,000 or more	1,500 to 4,999	less than 1,500
Ducks ₂	30,000 or more	10,000 to 29,999	less than 10,000
Sheep or lambs	10,000 or more	3,000 to 9,999	less than 3,000
Horses	500 or more	150 to 499	less than 150

Why use the Federal CAFO Ranges at all?

- The Federal CAFO ranges are accepted as “meaningful” ranges by all levels of government and many stakeholders.
- CAFO ranges provide substantial confidentiality for producers in the Small and Medium ranges.

Why change the Large CAFO Range?

Legislation requires that WSDA provide meaningful information to the public as well as confidentiality to producers. The open-ended, large CAFO range would provide the largest livestock operations with almost unlimited confidentiality, rendering the information “meaningless.” In order to satisfy the legislative mandate, WSDA is compelled to change the large CAFO range.

What are the ranges for facilities in the Large CAFO category?

Using the Large CAFO as a starting point, WSDA developed ranges that assure all operations, no matter what their size, experience 20% or greater confidentiality.

For facilities in the federal Large CAFO category, WSDA range breadths were developed using the following models:

Beef cattle Beginning with 1000 animals, add 20% of the lower range limit to establish the upper limit of the range. Repeat with each additional range.

Mature dairy cattle Beginning with 700 animals, add 20% of the lower range limit to establish the upper limit of the range. Repeat with each additional range.

Swine (breeding sows) Beginning with 2,500 animals, add 20% of the lower range limit to establish the upper limit of the range. Repeat with each additional range.

Why 20% Confidentiality?

WSDA's Livestock Nutrient Management Program (LNMP) Inspections require nutrient management updates when:

- Animal numbers increase by 10% or more, or
- Land base required for nutrient use decreases by 10% or more.

Where animal numbers are concerned, WSDA LNMP considers typical, appropriate operational flexibility to be about 20%. In keeping with that consideration, WSDA chose 20% confidentiality as meaningful to the public and sufficiently protective of producer information.

How were the ranges for other categories (e.g., nutrient produced, acres operated) developed?

Ranges for other categories were developed directly from the "Number of Animals" ranges. Accepted book values were used based on the particular number of animals in the range. Actual agricultural census data was also used.

Detailed models/rationale for each range and type of livestock will be presented by WSDA when we meet to discuss the ranges.