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Manure Management for Fairs and Exhibitions – Planning

A guide to planning for manure management at fairs and expos

#1 in a series of four fact sheets for fairs and expos

Fairground Resource Inventory

By doing this initial exercise, you will develop an informed perspective as a starting point. We will discuss how to collect this information in this fact sheet. An example is included. Finally, we will consider emergency spill response.

Before deciding on a manure storage site location(s), think about what encompasses your fairgrounds:

- Describe your fairgrounds: Identify the goals, objectives, size, historical management, available land base, and number of animals that reside at your fair each year.
- Consider the areas where manure tends to accumulate: Stalls/pens, wash racks, riding/show arenas, and other areas where animals are walked between these places on the fairgrounds.
- Consider the environmental impact of potential storage locations.

Number of Animals Exhibited at Your Event

To determine the number of animals exhibited on the fairgrounds you could use previous fair information as well as the designated spaces that each livestock species is provided while at the fair. For example, knowing the number of horse stalls on the premises as well as the number of pens for livestock and poultry projects will give you a good estimation on the number of animals. Knowing the maximum capacity, helps in identifying how much manure could be produced during your event.

After establishing the maximum number of animals that can be held on site, you can think about the volume of manure each animal produces. Each animal will produce a different amount of manure and will have different concentrations of nutrients in the manure.

To contact an expert in your area, visit extension.msu.edu/experts or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464)

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Storage Locations

It is important to consider the collection of manure on the premises. Try to identify all the possible scenarios of where manure may potentially collect. Some examples are:

- Stalls/pens- Manure and bedding is collected from stalls 2-3 times per day.
- Wash racks- Manure is collected as needed.
- Riding/Show arenas- Manure is collected as needed.
- Other walkways around fairgrounds- Manure is collected as needed.

Manure management storage location practices should take environmental stewardship into account. These recommendations are from the [Michigan Department of Agriculture's Generally Accepted Management Practices](https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1599_1605---,00.html) (https://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1599_1605---,00.html).

For each storage ask yourself:

- Is the storage 150 feet from surface water?
- Is the storage 75 feet from wells?
- Is the storage 50 feet from property lines?
- Is the storage 150 feet from residences?
- Are the manure storages easily and conveniently accessible to the area where most of the manure is produced?

Example of a Site Map

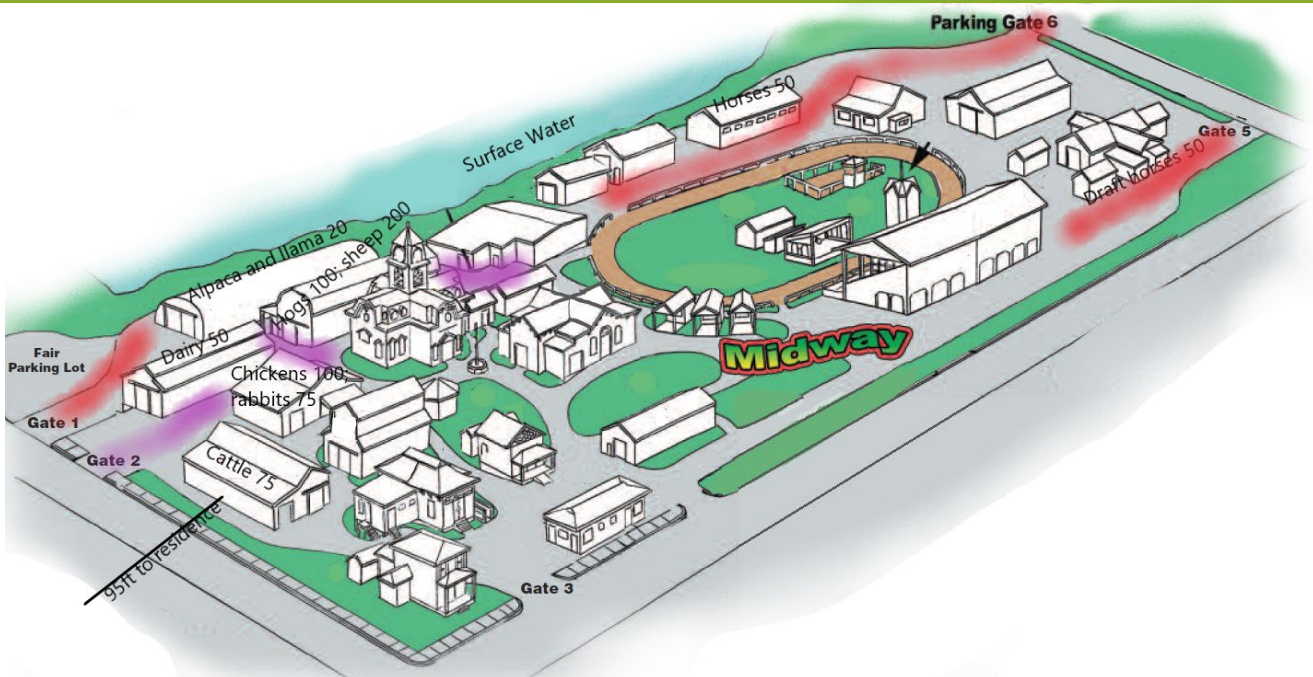


Figure 1 An example of how-to mark-up a site map with important information. (Used with permission)

