

CHAPTER 172D  
LIVESTOCK FEEDLOTS

Referred to in §657.8

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**172D.1 Definitions.**

As used in [this chapter](#), unless the context otherwise requires:

1. “City” means a municipal corporation, but not including a county, township, school district, or any special-purpose district or authority.

2. “Department” means the department of environmental quality in a reference to a time before July 1, 1983, the department of water, air and waste management in a reference to a time on or after July 1, 1983, and through June 30, 1986, and the department of natural resources on or after July 1, 1986, and includes any officer or agency within that department.

3. “Established date of operation” means the date on which a feedlot commenced operating with not more livestock than reasonably could be maintained by the physical facilities existing as of that date. If the physical facilities of the feedlot are subsequently expanded, the established date of operation for each expansion is deemed to be a separate and independent “established date of operation” established as of this date of commencement of the expanded operations, and the commencement of expanded operations shall not divest the feedlot of a previously established date of operation.

4. “Established date of ownership” means the date of the recording of an appropriate muniment of title establishing the ownership of realty.

5. “Establishment cost of a feedlot” means the cost or value of the feedlot on its established date of operation and includes the cost or value of the building, machinery, vehicles, equipment or other real or personal property used in the operation of the feedlot.

6. “Feedlot” means a lot, yard, corral, or other area in which livestock are confined, primarily for the purposes of feeding and growth prior to slaughter. The term does not include areas which are used for the raising of crops or other vegetation and upon which livestock are allowed to graze or feed.

7. A rule pertaining to “feedlot design standards” means a rule, the implementation of which, or the compliance with which, requires the expenditure of funds in excess of two percent of the establishment cost of the feedlot.

8. A rule pertaining to “feedlot management standards” means a rule, the implementation of which, or the compliance with which, requires the expenditure of funds not in excess of two percent of the establishment cost of the feedlot.

9. “Livestock” means cattle, sheep, swine, ostriches, rheas, emus, poultry, and other animals or fowl, which are being produced primarily for use as food or food products for human consumption.

10. “Materially affects” means prohibits or regulates with respect to the location, or the emission of noise, effluent, odors, sewage, waste, or similar products resulting from the operation or the location or use of buildings, machinery, vehicles, equipment, or other real or personal property used in the operation, of a livestock feedlot.

11. “Nuisance” means and includes public or private nuisance as defined either by statute or by the common law.

12. “Nuisance action or proceeding” means and includes every action, claim or proceeding, whether brought at law, in equity, or as an administrative proceeding, which is based on nuisance.

13. “Owner” shall mean the person holding record title to real estate to include both legal and equitable interests under recorded real estate contracts.

14. “Rule of the department” means a rule as defined in [section 17A.2](#) which materially affects the operation of a feedlot and which has been adopted by the department. The term

includes a rule which was in effect prior to July 1, 1975. Except as specifically provided in [section 172D.3, subsection 2](#), paragraph “b”, subparagraph (5) and paragraph “c”, subparagraph (5) nothing in [this chapter](#) shall be deemed to empower the department to make any rule.

15. “Zoning requirement” means a regulation or ordinance, which has been adopted by a city, county, township, school district, or any special-purpose district or authority, and which materially affects the operation of a feedlot. Nothing in [this chapter](#) shall be deemed to empower any agency described in [this subsection](#) to make any regulation or ordinance.

[C77, 79, 81, §172D.1; [82 Acts, ch 1199, §92, 96](#)]

[84 Acts, ch 1219, §7](#); [89 Acts, ch 83, §31](#); [95 Acts, ch 43, §7](#)

Referred to in [§203.1](#)

Further definitions, see [§159.1](#)

### **172D.2 Compliance — a defense to nuisance actions.**

In any nuisance action or proceeding against a feedlot brought by or on behalf of a person whose date of ownership of realty is subsequent to the established date of operation of that feedlot, proof of compliance with [sections 172D.3 and 172D.4](#) shall be an absolute defense, provided that the conditions or circumstances alleged to constitute a nuisance are subject to regulatory jurisdiction in accordance with either [section 172D.3](#) or [172D.4](#).

[C77, 79, 81, §172D.2]

### **172D.3 Compliance with rules of the department.**

1. *Requirement.* A person who operates a feedlot shall comply with applicable rules of the department. The applicability of a rule of the department shall be as provided in [subsection 2](#). A person complies with [this section](#) as a matter of law where no rule of the department exists.

2. *Applicability of rules.*

a. Exclusion for federally mandated requirements. [This section](#) shall apply to the department’s rules except for rules required for delegation of the national pollutant discharge elimination system permit program pursuant to the federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. ch. 26, as amended, and [40 C.F.R. pt. 124](#).

b. Applicability of rules of the department other than those relating to air quality under [chapter 455B, subchapter II](#), and [chapter 459, subchapter II](#).

(1) A rule of the department in effect on November 1, 1976, shall apply to a feedlot with an established date of operation prior to November 1, 1976.

(2) A rule of the department shall apply to a feedlot with an established date of operation subsequent to the effective date of the rule.

(3) A rule of the department adopted after November 1, 1976, does not apply to a feedlot holding a wastewater permit from the department and having an established date of operation prior to the effective date of the rule until either the expiration of the term of the permit in effect on the effective date of the rule, or ten years from the established date of operation of the feedlot, whichever time period is greater.

(4) A rule of the department adopted after November 1, 1976, does not apply to a feedlot not previously required to hold a wastewater permit from the department and having an established date of operation prior to the effective date of the rule for either a period of ten years from the established date of operation of the feedlot or five years from the effective date of the rule, whichever time period is greater.

(5) To achieve compliance with applicable rules the department shall issue an appropriate compliance schedule.

c. Applicability of rules of the department relating to air quality under [chapter 455B, subchapter II](#), and [chapter 459, subchapter II](#).

(1) A rule of the department under [chapter 455B, subchapter II](#), in effect on November 1, 1976, shall apply to a feedlot with an established date of operation prior to November 1, 1976.

(2) A rule of the department under [chapter 455B, subchapter II](#), or [chapter 459, subchapter II](#), shall apply to a feedlot with an established date of operation subsequent to the effective date of the rule.

(3) A rule of the department under [chapter 455B, subchapter II](#), or [chapter 459, subchapter II](#), pertaining to feedlot management standards adopted after November 1, 1976, shall not apply to any feedlot having an established date of operation prior to the effective date of the rule until one year after the effective date of the rule.

(4) A rule of the department under [chapter 455B, subchapter II](#), or [chapter 459, subchapter II](#), pertaining to feedlot design standards adopted after November 1, 1976, shall not apply to any feedlot having an established date of operation prior to the effective date of the rule for either a period of ten years from the established date of operation of the feedlot or two years from the effective date of the rule, whichever time period is greater. However, any design standard rule pertaining to the siting of any feedlot shall apply only to a feedlot with an established date of operation subsequent to the effective date of the rule.

(5) To achieve compliance with applicable rules the department shall issue an appropriate compliance schedule.

[C77, 79, 81, §172D.3]

[84 Acts, ch 1219, §8](#); [2003 Acts, ch 108, §42](#); [2010 Acts, ch 1061, §39](#); [2021 Acts, ch 76, §150](#)

Referred to in [§172D.1](#), [172D.2](#)

#### **172D.4 Compliance with zoning requirements.**

1. *Requirement.* A person who operates a feedlot shall comply with applicable zoning requirements. The applicability of a zoning requirement shall be as provided in [subsection 2 of this section](#). A person complies with [this section](#) as a matter of law where no zoning requirement exists.

##### *2. Applicability.*

a. A zoning requirement shall apply to a feedlot with an established date of operation subsequent to the effective date of the zoning requirement.

b. A zoning requirement, other than one adopted by a city, shall not apply to a feedlot with an established date of operation prior to the effective date of the zoning requirement for a period of ten years from the effective date of that zoning requirement.

c. A zoning requirement which is in effect on November 1, 1976, shall apply to a feedlot with an established date of operation prior to November 1, 1976.

d. A zoning requirement adopted by a city shall apply to a feedlot located within an incorporated or unincorporated area which is subject to regulation by that city as of November 1, 1976, regardless of the established date of operation of the feedlot.

e. A zoning requirement adopted by a city shall not apply to a feedlot which becomes located within an incorporated or unincorporated area subject to regulation by that city by virtue of an incorporation or annexation which takes effect after November 1, 1976 for a period of ten years from the effective date of the incorporation or annexation.

[C77, 79, 81, §172D.4]

Referred to in [§172D.2](#)