

Quota Increases and Municipal Conditional Use Approval



In Manitoba, The Planning Act and the Provincial Planning Regulation guide the development of agricultural land, including the livestock industry. Municipalities and planning districts are the local planning authorities responsible for land use in their designated planning areas.

Permitted Versus Conditional Use

Local planning authorities are required to prepare a development plan and zoning by-law for their planning area. Under the zoning by-law, a livestock operation is either a Permitted Use (for smaller operations) or a Conditional Use when it reaches a certain size (i.e. Conditional Use threshold). The local planning authority can set the Conditional Use threshold. Livestock Operations that reach or exceed the Animal Unit (AU) threshold will require Conditional Use approval from their Municipality or Planning District Board.



Producers without an Existing Conditional Use Approval

Producers without an existing Conditional Use approval should check with the Municipality to ensure they will be below the threshold with the increased quota. If expanding the herd size to meet the increased quota will result in the operation reaching or exceeding the Conditional Use threshold, Conditional Use approval is required. A Provincial Technical Review is triggered for operations that are 300 AUs or greater in size and also require Conditional Use approval from the Municipality or Planning District.

Animal units (AUs) are calculated by multiplying the number of mature cows (lactating and dry) by two.

Producers with an Existing Conditional Use Approval

Producers that have an existing Conditional Use approval should confirm the number of AUs they are approved for. Quota increases that result in more AUs than are allowed in the existing Conditional Use approval will trigger the requirement for a new Conditional Use approval.



Exceptions to Conditional Use Approval

Existing producers that renew or modernize farm buildings can expand their AUs by up to 15 per cent without requiring a new Conditional Use approval. This one-time, minor expansion must be tied to farm buildings that house livestock and is subject to municipal development and building permit requirements.

Applying for Conditional Use Approval before Expanding

Conditional Use approval should be obtained prior to increasing the livestock inventory on the farm. The approval process is regulated and can take anywhere from three months to a year. When seeking Conditional Use approval, dairy producers should consider applying for approval at a size that will accommodate future expansion plans and anticipated annual quota adjustments.



For more information, call **1-844-769-6224** or email agriculture@gov.mb.ca