

SB 85 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Action Date: 04/03/23

Action: Without recommendation as to passage and request referral to Rules.

Vote: 3-2-0-0

Yeas: 3 - Golden, Prozanski, Taylor

Nays: 2 - Girod, Smith DB

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Laura Kentnesse, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/6, 3/13, 3/22, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Agriculture to study confined animal feeding operations, and to submit a report to agriculture-related interim legislative committees by September 15, 2024.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Regulatory framework for confined animal feeding operations in Oregon
- Moving the measure to Senate Rules to provide more time for stakeholder policy discussions

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The legislature first established a regulatory program for confined animal feeding operations (CAFO) in 1989. The legislation directed the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to issue CAFO permits and the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to inspect CAFO facilities. In 1993, the CAFO statutes were amended to direct the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) and ODA to enter a formal memorandum of understanding authorizing ODA to perform the CAFO-related functions of DEQ and the EQC.

CAFOs are defined in administrative rule as (1) the concentrated confined feeding or holding of animals in buildings or pens: where the surface has been prepared with concrete, rock, or fibrous material; that have wastewater treatment works; or that discharge wastes into waters of the state; or (2) concentrated animal feeding operations under federal regulations where: animals are confined and fed on a lot or facility for at least 45 days per year; no vegetation is grown in the confinement area; and a threshold number for each type of specified animal is confined.

In 2022, there were 504 permitted CAFO facilities in Oregon. Most CAFO permits are for dairy operations, but facilities that meet CAFO requirements for horses, cattle, sheep, swine, chickens, turkeys, quail, egg production, and fur farms necessitate permits as well. In recent years, applications to register new CAFO facilities have ranged from four to 14 permit applications per year.

Senate Bill 85 would direct the Oregon Department of Agriculture to study confined animal feeding operations, and to submit a report to agriculture-related interim legislative committees by September 15, 2024.