



CAFO Siting Team  
Annual Report for 2006

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On July 1, 2001, the "Site Advisory Suitability Determination Act" became law creating a confined animal feeding operation (CAFO) site advisory team comprised of members from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Department of Water Resources, and the Department of Environmental Quality. The rules governing the CAFO site advisory team are followed to provide "suitability determinations" on proposed livestock operations based on environmental risk. The suitability determination is provided to the county for their consideration when deliberating conditional use or livestock confinement operation permits.

IDAPA 02.04.18 states that a board of county commissioners may request the formation of a CAFO site advisory team to provide a site suitability determination for all proposed CAFO sites. The team then develops and submits to the county a site suitability determination that contains three parts:

1. Risk Category: A determination of an environmental risk category: high, moderate, low, or insufficient information to make a determination.
2. Description of Factors: A description of the factors that contribute to the environmental risks.
3. Mitigation: Any possible mitigation of the environmental risks.

Risk Category is determined through the combination of a point-based scoring system and professional judgment. The score sheet is divided into two sections consisting of environmental questions followed by a section of proposed management questions. Points are tallied in both sections and the final score, along with professional judgment, is used to assign a Risk Category. It is then the responsibility of the consultant and the county to ensure proper mitigation of environmental risk beyond that required by state and local regulations.

The CAFO Siting Team has conducted 80 site assessments since 2001 (Figure 1). The number of ratings by risk category are 60 low risks (75%), 19 moderate risks (24%), and 1 high risk (1%). Forty-three of the 80 assessments

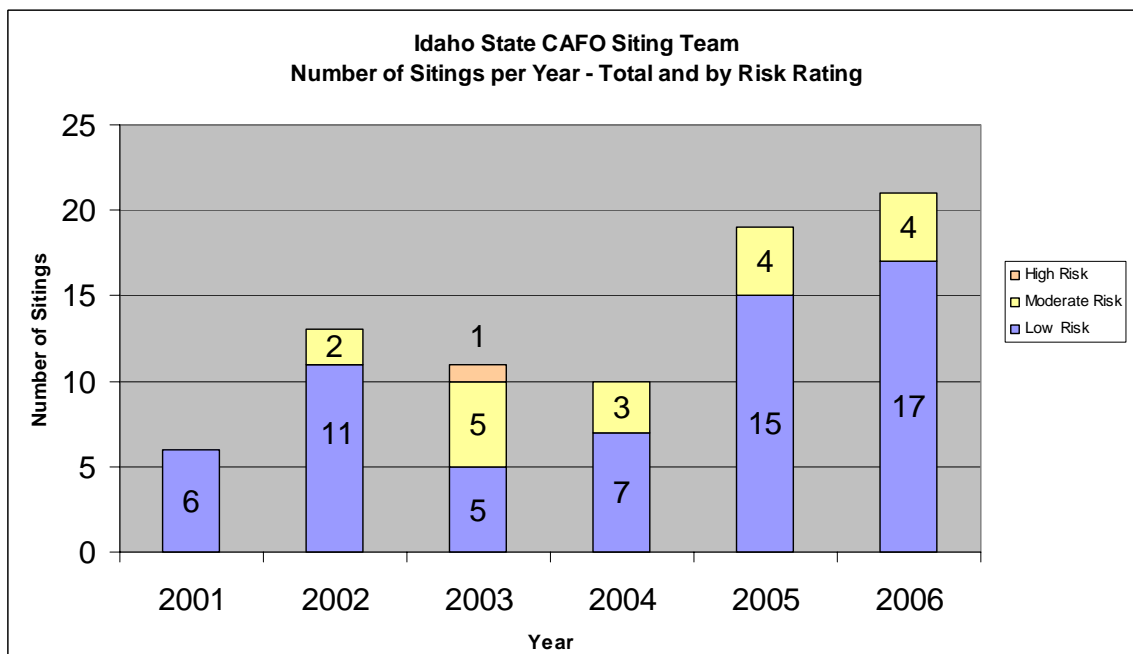


Figure 1. Idaho State CAFO Siting Team Assessments per Year

(54%) were conducted for proposed new facilities and 37 (46%) were conducted for proposed expansions. Twelve counties have requested suitability determinations since 2001 (Table 1). Approximately two-thirds of the 80 CAFO sitings since 2001 have come from four counties: Jerome 22 (28%), Cassia 11 (14%), Gooding 11 (14%), and Twin Falls 9 (11%).

**Table 1.** CAFO Suitability Assessments by County Since 2001

<b>County</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>	<b>Moderate Risk</b>	<b>High Risk</b>
Jerome	22	16	6	0
Cassia	11	9	2	0
Gooding	11	9	2	0
Twin Falls	9	8	0	1
Minidoka	6	5	1	0
Elmore	5	3	2	0
Owyhee	4	1	3	0
Canyon	3	3	0	0
Lincoln	3	2	1	0
Payette	3	1	2	0
Ada	2	2	0	0
Jefferson	1	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>

Seven counties requested suitability determinations in 2006 (Table 2). Approximately 62% of the 21 CAFO sitings in 2006 came from two counties: 8 (38%) in Cassia and 5 (24%) in Gooding. CAFO sitings were conducted for the first time in 2006 in Ada and Jefferson Counties.

**Table 2.** CAFO Suitability Assessments by County in 2006

<b>County</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>	<b>Moderate Risk</b>	<b>High Risk</b>
Cassia	8	7	1	0
Gooding	5	4	1	0
Ada	2	2	0	0
Jerome	2	1	1	0
Twin Falls	2	2	0	0
Jefferson	1	1	0	0
Minidoka	1	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>

### Summary

The Idaho State CAFO Siting Team conducted 21 site assessments in 2006 and 80 total assessments since 2001. A majority of suitability ratings since 2001 have been low risk (75%), approximately a quarter have been moderate risk (24%), and one site was high risk (1%). Four counties (Jerome, Cassia, Gooding, and Twin Falls) account for two-thirds of the assessments since the inception of the Site Advisory Suitability Determination Act in 2001. The number of sitings has increased each year from 2004 through 2006, with more than 20 assessments requested for the first time in 2006. This trend suggests that the number of CAFO siting requests will increase in 2007.