



Animals to Animal Units Conversion

Animal Units are calculated using a factor which converts animals of different species or sizes into equivalent units. Animal units for each species can then be added together to determine the capacity of a facility. The animal unit capacity and type of operation determine which state or federal regulations apply to that operation.

To calculate **Animal Units**, use the table to multiply the number of animals of each species (column A) by the appropriate equivalency factor (column B) to determine the number of animal units (column C). **Note:** Use average weight during the production cycle to choose the appropriate animal species. Your number of head (column A) should be the maximum number of animals in each category that you would confine at any one time.

To calculate Total Animal Unit Capacity, add the animal units (column C) for each animal species.

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Animal Species	A. Number of Head	X	B. Equivalency Factor	=	C. Animal Units
Slaughter or feeder cattle		X	1.0	=	
Immature dairy cattle		X	1.0	=	
Mature dairy cattle		X	1.4	=	
Swine over 55 lbs.		X	0.4	=	
Swine 15 to 55 lbs.		X	0.1	=	
Sheep or lambs		X	0.1	=	
Goats		X	0.1	=	
Horses		X	2.0	=	
Turkeys 7 lbs. or more		X	0.018	=	
Turkeys less than 7 lbs.		X	0.0085	=	
Broiler/layer chickens 3 lbs. or more		X	0.010	=	
Broiler/layer chickens less than 3 lbs.		X	0.0025	=	
Ducks		X	0.040	=	
Fish 25 grams or more		X	0.001	=	
Fish less than 25 grams		X	0.00006	=	
Add all Animal Units in Column C to determine Total Animal Unit Capacity					

Definitions:

Animal Capacity: the maximum number of animals which the owner or operator will confine in an animal feeding operation at any one time. In a confinement feeding operation, the animal capacity of all confinement buildings will be included in the determination of the animal capacity of the operation, unless the building has been abandoned in accordance with the definition of “abandoned confinement feeding operation structure.”

Animal Unit Capacity: a measurement used to determine the maximum number of animal units that may be maintained as part of an animal feeding operation at any one time, including as provided in Iowa Code sections 459.201 and 459.301. For dry bedded confinement feeding operations, “animal unit capacity” means the maximum number of animal units which the owner or operator confines in a dry bedded confinement feeding operation at any one time, including the animal unit capacity of all dry bedded confinement feeding operation buildings that are used to house cattle or swine in the dry bedded confinement feeding operation.

CAUTION: This document is only a summary of administrative rules contained in 567 IAC chapter 65; it is a guidance document and should not be used as replacement for the administrative rules. While every effort has been made to assure the accuracy of this information, the administrative rules will prevail in the event of a conflict between this document and the administrative rules.