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Unlimited animal units in the new zoning code

1 message

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To: Amanda Arnold <AArnold@town.verona.wi.us>, "Black Earth, Clerk" <clerk@town.blackearth.wi.us>, Clerk Albion <jhanewall@townofalbion.net>, Clerk Berry <twberry@chorus.net>, Clerk Blooming Grove <bgadmin@blmgrove.com>, Clerk Blue Mounds <townofbluemounds@gmail.com>, Clerk Bristol <bristolclerk@bristoltownhall.com>, Clerk Burke <townofburke@frontier.com>, Clerk Christiana <kathy.wilson@townofchristiana.com>, Clerk Cottage Grove <clerk@towncg.net>, Clerk Cross Plains <tcpclerk@tds.net>, Clerk Dane <townofdaneclerk@gmail.com>, Clerk Deerfield <townofdeerfield@yahoo.com>, Clerk Dunkirk <townofdunkirk@att.net>, Clerk Dunn <chasslinger@town.dunn.wi.us>, Clerk Madison <schwassr@town.madison.wi.us>, Clerk Mazomanie <twnmazo@gmail.com>, Clerk Middleton <info@town.middleton.wi.us>, Clerk Montrose <montrose@chorus.net>, Clerk Oregon <darnold@town.oregon.wi.us>, Clerk Perry <mlprice@mhtc.net>, Clerk Primrose <clerk@townofprimrose.com>, Clerk Roxbury <pings@merr.com>, Clerk Rutland <clerk@town.rutland.wi.us>, Clerk Springdale <townofspringdale@mhtc.net>, Clerk Springfield <townhall@town.springfield.wi.us>, Clerk Sun Prairie <clerk@townofsunprairie.info>, Clerk Vermont <clerk@townofvermont.com>, Clerk Verona <tdresser@town.verona.wi.us>, Clerk Vienna <tovclerk@centurytel.net>, Clerk York <NBronkhorstyorkclerk@yahoo.com>, Connie Anderson <connie@andersonconsultswi.com>, Dennis Jelle <ourfarm@mhtc.net>, John Brixy <brixy4dane30@gmail.com>, Mark Geller <mgeller@town.verona.wi.us>, "Medina, Clerk" <clerk@townofmedina.org>, Tom Wilson <twilson@townofwestport.org>, Town of Pleasant Springs <clerktreasurer@pleasantsprings.org>, townboard Cottage Grove Town Board <townboard@towncg.net>, Ben Kollenbroich <bkollenbroich@town.dunn.wi.us>

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Town Clerks,

DCTA has been contacted by towns with concerns that unlimited animal units are allowed in several zoning districts in the new zoning ordinance. Specifically, the new zoning districts allow for unlimited animal units on properties that are much smaller than in the previous zoning ordinance.

This email is to let you know that this issue is being discussed with Dane County planning staff and to solicit town feedback on possible solutions.

Issue:

FP-1 (small lot farmland preservation) zoning district, allows unlimited animal units on parcels from 1 to 35 acres. Many parcels previously zoned A-4 are being rezoned to FP-1 creating concerns regarding unlimited livestock on parcels that can be as small as one acre.

RM-8 (rural mixed use 8 to 16 acres) and RM-16 (rural mixed used 16 to unlimited acres) zoning districts, allow unlimited animal units. Many properties zoned A-2 and RH-4 are being rezoned to these districts.

Proposed Solution:

FP-1

Request that Dane County amend the new zoning ordinance and change permitted uses in the FP-1 zoning district to allow unlimited animal units only on parcels greater than 5 acres. This would be consistent with the previous zoning code that restricted unlimited livestock to parcels greater than 5 acres.

RM-8 and RM-16

Recognize that these districts take a different approach to managing animal units. Instead of basing livestock restrictions on the size of the parcel - as in allowing one animal unit per acre - the new zoning code requires compliance with NR 151. This compliance applies to all agricultural uses, not only livestock. It requires crop producers and livestock producers to meet specific discharge standards. Allow Dane County to try this approach and monitor their enforcement of any violations. Also note that if towns are not comfortable with the RM zoning categories, the RR district is an option that does not allow unlimited livestock.

Request:

Please let me know your opinion on this and the proposed solution (by May 10th if possible). This is a complex topic and this email is meant to be a first step in addressing the issue and soliciting feedback. I will collect and summarize town suggestions and share them.

The goal is to continue to work with Dane County on this and to request an amendment to the zoning code to address concerns.

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