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Animal Unit Equivalencies

Source: Maryland Department of Agriculture, 1999
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The nutrient management law defines an agricultural operation or farm to be a business that produces an agricultural product, has a gross annual income of \$2,500 or more, or has 8 or more animal units. One animal unit is generally defined as 1,000 pounds of live animal weight, but requirements for specific animals must follow 40 CFR, Part 122, Appendix B and are highlighted with an asterisk (*). The table below has been provided as a guideline for how many animals of a certain type and weight would constitute 8 animal units for the purposes of the regulations.

Animal Type	Weight Units (adult)	Number of animals that will make 8 Animal (1 A.U. = 1000 lbs live animal weight)
* Horses	(2000 lbs)	4 horses
* Slaughter/Feeder Cattle	(1000 lbs)	8 cows
* Dairy Cattle	(1400 lbs)	6 cows
* Swine	(140 lbs)	20 pigs
* Sheep	(100 lbs)	80 sheep
**Broilers/Fryers	(3.5-5 lbs)	2000 chickens
**Ducks	(6-7 lbs)	1200 ducks
**Geese	(11-15 lbs)	650 geese
**Turkeys	(15-25 lbs)	425 turkeys
**Goats	(70-125 lbs)	90 goats
**Alpaca	(100-115 lbs)	75 alpacas
**Llama	(250-450 lbs)	25 llamas
**Emu	(125-150 lbs)	60 emus
**Ostrich	(200-350 lbs)	30 ostriches

* Specific weight equivalents as contained in 40 CFR, Part 122, Appendix B

**These numbers are averages for the particular type of animal. Other factors such as animal weight and physiological stage can cause these numbers to differ slightly.

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