



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2003 Wisconsin Act 229 [2003 Assembly Bill 812]	Registration of Livestock Premises
2003 Acts: www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/	Act Memos: www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm

2003 Wisconsin Act 229 creates a system of livestock premises registration, to be administered by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). The Act defines “livestock” to mean bovine animals, equine animals, goats, poultry, sheep, swine, farm-raised deer, and any other animal that the DATCP identifies by rule. It requires that a person who keeps any livestock, regardless of number, register the premises where the livestock are kept. The DATCP may, by rule, establish exemptions to the registration requirement, including exemptions based on the number or type of livestock kept.

A person who is required to register a livestock premises under the Act must provide information to the DATCP relating to the registrant’s name and business address, the location where the registrant keeps livestock, the type of livestock, and the type of livestock operation. The DATCP will assign a premises code to each location, in compliance with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) standards, and maintain a database with the codes and related information.

The Act specifies that information provided by a registrant is not a public record subject to disclosure under the open records law. In general, the DATCP and any agent contracted to administer the program may not disclose this information. However, the DATCP may disclose confidential information upon authorization by the registrant or if it believes that disclosure is necessary to prevent or control disease or protect public health, safety, or welfare. Also, the DATCP may disclose confidential information to the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), if the APHIS agrees to treat the information in the same manner as the DATCP is required to treat it. An agent of the DATCP may not release confidential information except to a person to whom the registrant or the DATCP authorizes disclosure. The Act requires the DATCP to promulgate rules to govern the release of aggregate information by the department (i.e., a summary of information provided by registrants that does not reveal confidential information), and prohibits the department from authorizing its agent to release aggregate information.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents.

The Act authorizes the DATCP to contract with an agent to administer the livestock premises registration program. It directs the DACTP to seek federal funding for administration of the program and to include a proposal for funding the program in its budget request for the 2005-07 Biennial Budget.

Effective Date: Act 229 takes effect on November 1, 2005, except that the requirement that the DATCP include a proposal for funding the program in its budget request for the 2005-07 Biennial Budget takes effect on April 28, 2004.

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