

# Using the Master Matrix

## What?

## Who?

## When & How?



Gene Tinker, AFO Coordinator  
gene.tinker@dnr.iowa.gov  
515-210-1593

# The Master Matrix

Developed through consensus by a  
10-member statewide committee

---

## **County Representatives**

*ISAC*

## **State agencies**

*DNR, IDALS*

## **Environmental Representatives**

*IEC*

## **State universities**

*ISU, U of I*

## **Producer Representatives**

*IFBF, IFU, IPPA, IPA*

*Met June through September 2002*



# The Master Matrix – What is it?

- ▶ 44 practices producers can choose
  - exceed environmental standards
  - address local community impacts
- ▶ The county's tool
- ▶ Empowers counties to request what they really want
- ▶ Is not for every county -- requires some work



# The Master Matrix – What is it?

- ▶ Designed as a Pass / Fail scoring system
  - Once a passing score is achieved, additional points does not make it a “better” application
  - Is not like a “test” where every question needs an answer
  - Is truly a pick and choose system
- ▶ The county’s tool



# Master Matrix – Who?

- ▶ Counties that elect to use it!
  - Usually about 88 counties each year



# Who must follow it?

## Iowa has Two Types of Animal Feeding Operations

- ▶ Confinements (Roofed)
- ▶ Open feedlots (confined but not totally roofed)



NRCS photo



IMMAG photo

Only confinements are affected  
Only when county elects to use it

# Master Matrix Affects:

- ▶ Confinements
  - Building
  - Expanding or
  - Modifying
- ▶ Need a construction permit
  - 2,500 finishing hogs
  - 1,000 beef cattle or immature dairy
  - 715 mature dairy cows
  - 1000 animal units



# The Master Matrix – When and How?

- ▶ Requires counties to:
  - Pass a Construction Evaluation Resolution annually
  - Submit resolution to DNR in January
  - Evaluate the construction application using the matrix
  - Evaluate all applications, not selectively





# The Master Matrix

- Requires permit applicants to exceed state law and DNR regulations, such as
  - Increase separation from sensitive waters
  
- Get half of total points = 440/880
- Get 25% of available points in three subcategories
  - Air quality
  - Water quality
  - Community impact



# The Master Matrix

## County & DNR Approval

- ▶ County with construction evaluation resolution
  - Must submit master matrix evaluation
  - Can recommend approval or disapproval of construction permit applications
  - Can base comments on the master matrix or other factors
  - Can appeal within 14 days after the draft permit is issued



# For Example

Filters can reduce odor but are not required by state law

A producer may get points for installing a filter

When the county evaluates the matrix, they can

- insist that the design, operation and maintenance plan is submitted
- Evaluate the plan
- Accept or reject the points for that item

---

14 Installation of a filter(s) designed to reduce odors from confinement building(s) exhaust fan(s).

	Score	Air	Water	Community
Installation of filter(s)	10	8.00		2.00

*The design, operation and maintenance plan for the filter(s) must be in the construction permit application and made a condition in the approved construction permit.*

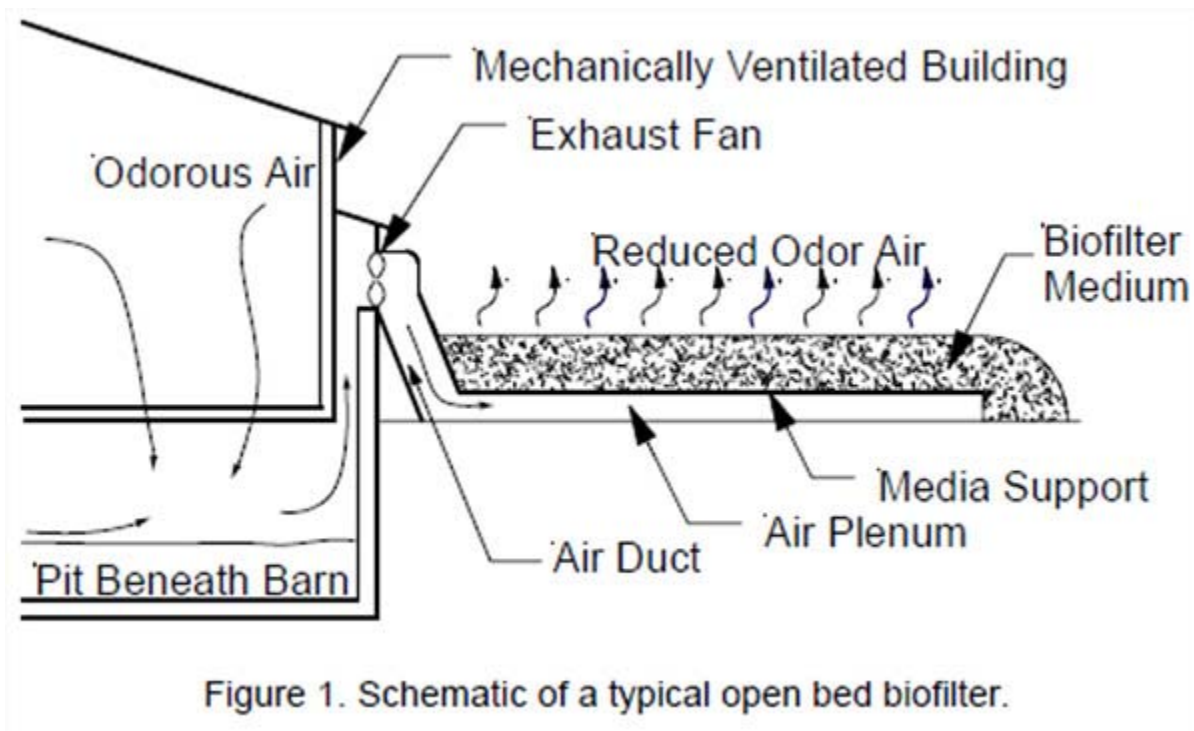
---



# Filter – furnace filter?



# Filter – biofilter?



# How it works for the DNR

- ▶ DNR **must** approve permit
  - if the county recommends approval (satisfactory rating on the **master matrix**)  
and
  - if it meets statutory and DNR rule requirements

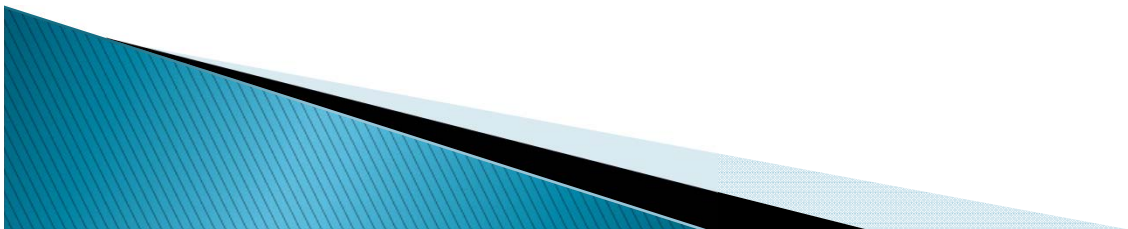
The county can appeal (more later)



# The Master Matrix

## County & DNR Approval

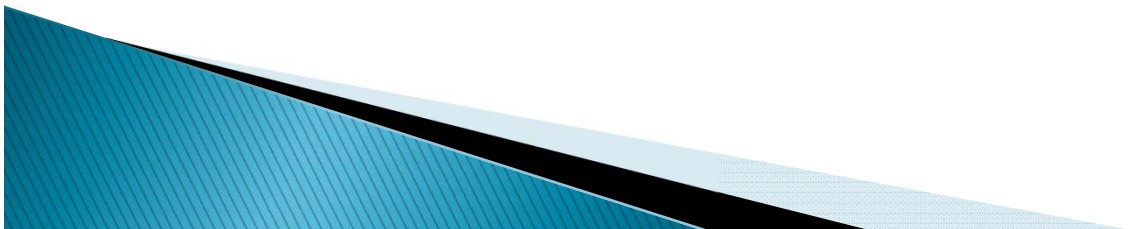
- ▶ DNR must **deny** the permit
  - if it does not meet state law and DNR rules
    - (regardless of County Board's recommendation and matrix score)



# The Master Matrix County & DNR Approval

DNR must also **deny**

- if the permit applicant does not pass the **master matrix** at the county level  
and
- DNR confirms a non-passing score of the **master matrix** with an independent review (even if site meets all DNR minimum requirements)





# The Master Matrix

## Appeal Rights

- If the county appeals
  - Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) considers input from:
    - ◆ – the county
    - ◆ – the applicant
    - ◆ – the DNR
  - EPC can affirm, deny or modify the permit
  - Applicant or county can appeal EPC decision to district court
- If the applicant appeals – can choose if the case goes to
  - the EPC
  - or to a judge in a contested case



# County appeals

- ▶ Do not rely on the department evaluation rule: 65.5(3)
  - The Administrative Rules Review Committee objected to the provisions of the rule on the grounds the rule was beyond the authority delegated to the DNR



# Summary Timeline

- ▶ County receives and signs for application
- ▶ Applicant delivers application to DNR
- ▶ DNR faxes public notice info to county
- ▶ County publishes notice (14 days)
- ▶ County reviews Master Matrix
- ▶ County submits recommendation to DNR (30 days)
- ▶ DNR submits decision to applicant and county (60 days) – continuances possible
- ▶ County can appeal (14 days)



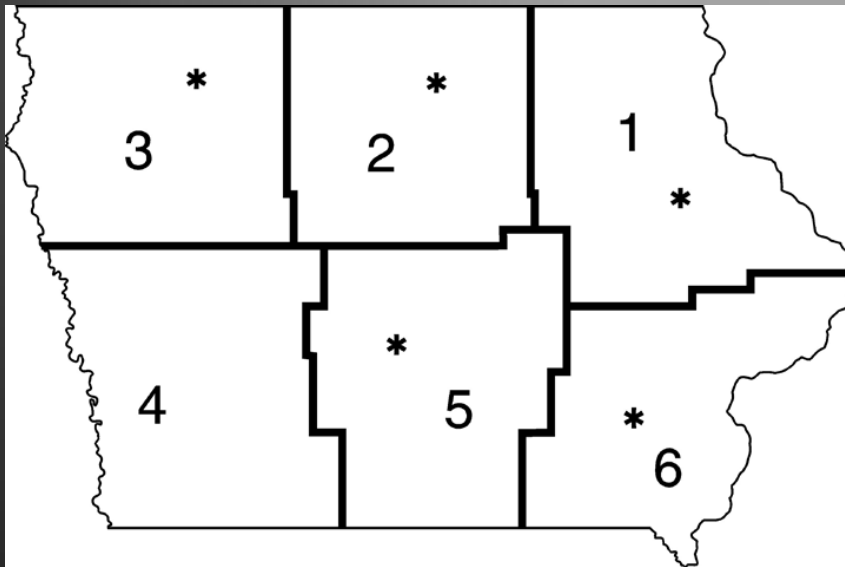
# The Master Matrix – summary

## Ideally, the Master Matrix

- gives the producer freedom to choose practices that can be implemented
  - ◆ environmentally friendly
  - ◆ community friendly
- gives the county the opportunity to have more input on confinements
- gives producer and the county the opportunity to talk

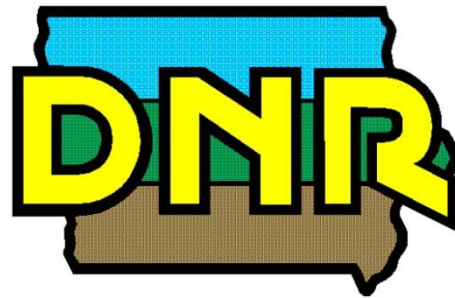


# DNR Field Office locations



- ▶ 1. Northeast Iowa, Manchester  
(563) 927-2640
- ▶ 2. North Central Iowa, Mason City  
(641) 424-4073
- ▶ 3. Northwest Iowa, Spencer  
(712) 262-4177
- ▶ 4. Southwest Iowa, Atlantic  
(712) 243-1934
- ▶ 5. South Central Iowa, Des Moines  
(515) 725-0268
- ▶ 6. Southeast Iowa, Washington  
(319) 653-2135

# For More Information



- ▶ <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Land-Quality/Animal-Feeding-Operations>

