

IOWA SUPERVISORS SURVEY

Tabulation of findings

Submitted by:

Dickinson County Auditor

Dickinson County Supervisors

Date conducted: April 2015

INTRODUCTION

Senate File 2293, enacted by the 79th General Assembly in the spring of 2002, approved the creation of a Master Matrix scoring system for the purpose of evaluating the siting and manure management of proposed permitted operations based on environmental risks and community impacts. A ten member technical advisory committee was designated to formulate the language of this system. This committee met from June through September 2002. On March 1, 2003 the adopted Master Matrix was put into practice. As of January 2015 a total of 88 Iowa counties have voted to use the Master Matrix to evaluate construction permit applications for proposed locations of animal confinements.

Under the present Master Matrix system, Iowa's county supervisors have very limited authorization to control the siting, size, and number of animal confinements within their counties.

On March 24th the Dickinson County Supervisors met in formal session to discuss conducting a statewide survey of all county supervisors in Iowa's 99 counties. The purpose of this survey was to establish a benchmark of findings on how county supervisors would answer the question:

"...should the existing Master Matrix system be repaired to include more local control for counties to preserve and protect the environmental resources within their county?"

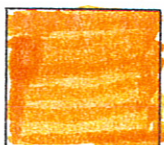
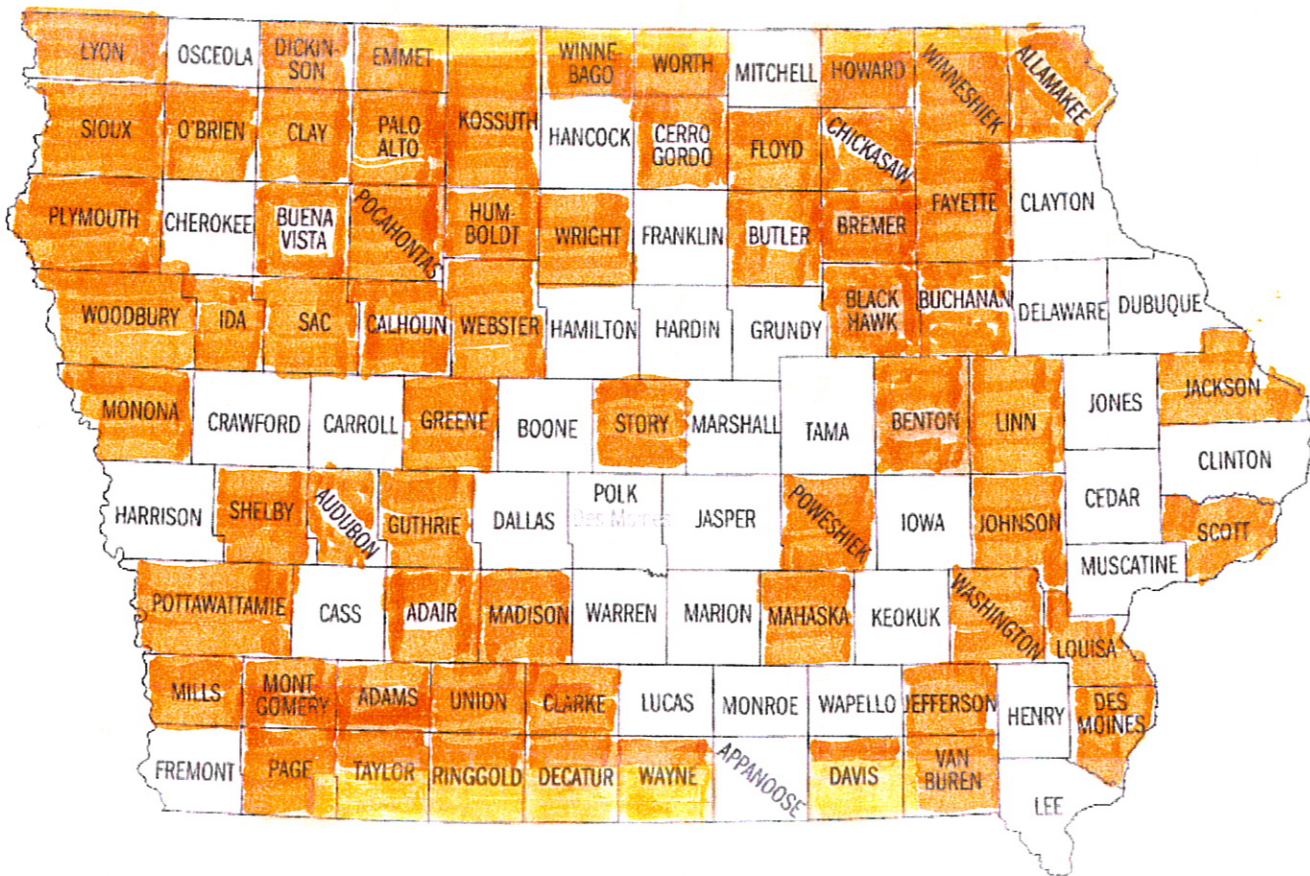
The supervisor's polled response to the above question would be either: "In Favor of", "Opposed to", or, "No Opinion". To encourage survey participation, all returned survey responses would not identify the names of the supervisors and how they voted, nor would specific details be released on how each county voted.

The Dickinson County Auditor was instructed by the Dickinson County Supervisors to send out an introductory letter and survey form to each County Auditor in Iowa's other 98 counties. Survey responses were requested to be returned to the Dickinson County Auditor in 30 days. A Survey response tabulation would follow.

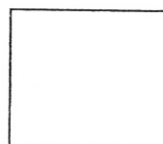
SURVEY FINDINGS

A total of 64 Iowa counties sent in responses to the Supervisors Survey. Counties that participated include:

Adair	Cerro Gordo	Greene	Lyon	Pottawattamie	Washington
Adams	Chickasaw	Guthrie	Madison	Poweshiek	Wayne
Alamakee	Clarke	Howard	Mahaska	Ringgold	Webster
Audubon	Clay	Humboldt	Mills	Sac	Winnebago
Benton	Davis	Ida	Monona	Scott	Winneshiek
Blackhawk	Decatur	Jackson	Montgomery	Shelby	Woodbury
Bremer	Des Moines	Jefferson	O'Brien	Sioux	Worth
Buchanan	Dickinson	Johnson	Page	Story	Wright
Buena Vista	Emmet	Kossuth	Palo Alto	Taylor	Mitchell
Butler	Fayette	Linn	Plymouth	Union	
Calhoun	Floyd	Louisa	Pocahontas	Van Buren	



County that
Responded



No response
County

SURVEY FINDINGS

The Supervisors Survey forms were sent out from the Dickinson County Auditor's office to all other county auditors in Iowa's other 98 counties. As of May 2nd the Dickinson County Auditor's office received a total of 64 responses . Based on 99 counties contacted that represents a 65% response.

To the posed question, "should the existing Master Matrix system be repaired to include more local control for counties to preserve and protect the environmental resources within their county?" the tabulated responses were:

- A total of 23 counties voted IN FAVOR OF
- A total of 19 counties voted OPPOSED TO
- A total of 22 counties voted NO OPINION or submitted no vote
- A total of 16 counties voted unanimously IN FAVOR OF
- A total of 17 counties voted unanimously OPPOSED TO
- A total of 12 counties voted unanimously NO OPINION
- A total of 8 of the 64 counties did not submit polled votes but rather, submitted written responses

The 64 counties who responded to the Supervisors Survey represented a total Iowa county population of 1,779,134 people (as per US updated census 2014). The total reported population in Iowa in 2014 was: 3,105,870. The 64 Iowa counties who responded to the Supervisors Survey constituted 57% of Iowa's population.

SURVEY FINDINGS (continued):

- Out of Iowa's 375 total state supervisors, a total of 246 supervisors in 64 counties responded (66%)
- A total of 83 supervisors responded IN FAVOR OF
- A total of 75 supervisors responded OPPOSED TO
- A total of 88 supervisors responded NO OPINION or no vote

Some responding counties included the following written commentaries about the Supervisors Survey:

- Word "repaired" is too vague to make a definitive decision either way, not knowing the "repair" may be. Proposal too vague to have an opinion
- We support local control but should be uniform regulations statewide. Local control does put extra burdens on the Board. Separation distance should be considered when siting facilities. If more local control granted to counties, they may need to contract with someone with more expertise regarding CAFO's.
- Need more information. We care, but need additional information and suggestions of changes implied.
- We are in favor of, but not total local control.
- Make the Master Matrix so that feed lot owners need to answer all questions that are applicable and a passing grade is 80-85%.
- Let's discuss this in a forum.
- Even though answered "NO", would like more input at county level.
- It would depend on what controls were implemented, and would need to see options in order to make an informed decision.

SURVEY FINDINGS (continued):

- Current Matrix works fine for our county.
- Heck yes! Unanimous as well, that fees charged to the applicants should cover the cost of studying and responding to the applications
- Our board agreed to not respond to the survey but that does not mean our supervisors do not have individual opinions on the matter. As a practice, the board takes positions on policy issues as a Board. In this case we have chosen not to take a position as a body.
- The Board is not in favor of more local control although they would like to see more stringent Matrix guidelines. Would like rules at the State level to keep rule uniform. Passing score should be greater than 50%.
- This was not voted on during a meeting as it has never been used in the county. Personally, we would be in favor of more control.
- A unified response could not be obtained. One was in favor of affirmative reply, the other two felt that any of the responses would be misleading and they were not comfortable with the printed response options. Iowa Legislative should take notice and increase some distance requirements. Perhaps a local safety valve to decide fates. We are for some changes to the Matrix but not for changing control from the DNR at this point.
- Survey was discussed with Board Chair. Survey description of repairing the Master Matrix for more local control is broad and not defined, so it was unwise to decipher that. We have a sound relationship with our farming community and use the matrix effectively to judge the requests of our animal operation owners.

SURVEY FINDINGS (continued):

- Need to know more about proposed changes.
- Our county does not participate in the Master Matrix component of MMP, thus, we are not qualified to respond.
- Matrix statewide framework with minimum & maximum requirements.
- The State ultimately has the final say anyway!

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As promised, a copy of this report was sent from the Dickinson County Auditor's office on May 6th, 2015 to all remaining 98 counties. A letter of appreciation was included

For more detailed information on this SUPERVISORS SURVEY please direct your inquiries to:

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