

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 659

Short Title: Hog Lagoon Phaseout/Date Certain. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Harrison, Autry, Butler, and Crawford (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 18, 2023

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PHASE OUT TRADITIONAL ANIMAL WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS
3 THAT SERVE SWINE FARMS; TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM HUMANE STANDARDS
4 FOR THE TREATMENT OF COWS, POULTRY, AND SWINE; AND TO STUDY THE
5 POTENTIAL REPORTING OF ANTIBIOTIC DRUG USE IN LIVESTOCK RAISED IN
6 NORTH CAROLINA.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 1(b) of S.L. 2007-523 reads as rewritten:

9 "**SECTION 1.(b) ~~Continued Operation-Phaseout.~~** – An animal waste management system
10 that serves a swine farm for which a permit was issued prior to 1 September 2007 and that does
11 not meet the requirements of G.S. 143-215.10I, as enacted by subsection (a) of this section, may
12 continue to operate under, and shall operate in compliance with, that permit, including any
13 renewal of the ~~permit~~ permit, until September 1, 2027. The owner or operator of an animal waste
14 management system that employs a lagoon and sprayfield system that is phased out pursuant to
15 this act shall close all of the components of the animal waste management system in compliance
16 with all applicable federal and State laws, regulations, and rules. The phaseout required by this
17 section shall not apply to an animal waste management system that is part of a waste-to-energy
18 facility producing renewable energy from the animal waste."

19 **SECTION 2.** Chapter 106 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
20 Article to read:

21 "Article 49I.

22 "Minimum Humane Standards for Certain Farm Animals.

23 **"§ 106-549.100. Minimum standards to prevent the inhumane treatment of certain farm**
24 **animals.**

25 (a) The following definitions apply in this section:

- 26 (1) Calf raised for veal. – Any calf of the bovine species kept for the purpose of
27 producing the food product described as veal.
28 (2) Cow. – Any member of the bovine species, including calves.
29 (3) Egg-laying hen. – Any female domesticated chicken, turkey, duck, goose, or
30 guinea fowl kept for the purpose of egg production.
31 (4) Enclosure. – Any cage, crate, or other structure, including what is commonly
32 described as a "veal crate" for calves, a "battery cage" for egg-laying hens, or
33 a "gestation crate" for swine, used to confine a calf raised for veal, an
34 egg-laying hen, or a swine during pregnancy.



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- 1 (5) Farm. – The land, buildings, support facilities, and other equipment that are
2 wholly or partially used for the commercial production of animals or animal
3 products used for food or fiber and does not include live animal markets.
4 (6) Farm owner or operator. – Any person who owns or controls the operation of
5 a farm and does not include any nonmanagement employee, contractor, or
6 consultant.
7 (7) Fully extending the animal's limbs. – Fully extending all limbs without
8 touching the side of an enclosure or another animal. In the case of egg-laying
9 hens, "fully extending the animal's limbs" means (i) fully spreading both
10 wings without touching the side of an enclosure or another egg-laying hen and
11 (ii) having access to at least 1.5 square feet of usable floor space per hen, but
12 does not mean that all egg-laying hens in an enclosure must be able to
13 simultaneously spread their wings without touching the side of an enclosure
14 or another egg-laying hen.
15 (8) Person. – Any individual, firm, partnership, joint venture, association, limited
16 liability company, corporation, estate, trust, receiver, or syndicate.
17 (9) Poultry. – Any chicken, turkey, duck, goose, or guinea fowl.
18 (10) Swine. – Any member of the porcine species.
19 (11) Swine during pregnancy. – Any pregnant swine kept for the primary purpose
20 of breeding.
21 (12) Turning around freely. – Turning in a complete circle without any
22 impediment, including a tether, and without touching the side of an enclosure
23 or another animal.
24 (b) The Board of Agriculture, in consultation with the State Veterinarian, shall establish
25 minimum humane standards for cows, poultry, and swine that, at a minimum, do all of the
26 following:
27 (1) Prohibit a farm owner or operator from tethering or confining any calf raised
28 for veal, egg-laying hen, or swine during pregnancy on a farm, for all or the
29 majority of any day, in a manner that prevents the animal from lying down,
30 standing up, fully extending the animal's limbs, or turning around freely. This
31 subdivision does not apply to any of the following:
32 a. During scientific or agricultural research.
33 b. During examination, testing, individual treatment, or operation for
34 veterinary purposes.
35 c. During transportation.
36 d. During rodeo exhibitions, State or county fair exhibitions, 4-H
37 programs, and similar exhibitions or programs.
38 e. During the slaughter of livestock or poultry as provided by law.
39 f. To a swine during pregnancy during the seven-day period prior to the
40 swine's expected date of giving birth.
41 (2) Require a farm owner or operator to ensure that all on-farm killing of cows or
42 swine be performed in a humane manner using methods explicitly deemed
43 "acceptable" by the American Veterinary Medical Association. This
44 subdivision prohibits strangulation of cows and swine as a form of euthanasia.
45 (3) Prohibit a farm owner or operator from engaging in the transport, sale, or
46 receipt, for use in the human food supply, of any cow or calf too sick or injured
47 to stand and walk.
48 (c) Any farm owner or operator who violates any minimum humane standard adopted by
49 the Board pursuant to this section is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor."

50 **SECTION 3.(a)** The Division of Public Health of the Department of Health and
51 Human Services, with the cooperation of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services,

1 shall study the use of antibiotic drugs in livestock production in the State. As part of its study,
2 the Division and Department shall:

- 3 (1) Examine the supply chain of antibiotic delivery to livestock raised in the State.
- 4 (2) Determine which segment of the antibiotic supply chain (considering, but not
5 limited to, the antibiotic manufacturer, owner of the animal, feed mill, or farm
6 operator or owner) would provide the best estimate through reporting to the
7 Division of Public Health of the types, amounts, application methods, reasons
8 for use (including disease prevention, growth promotion, or disease
9 treatment), and target livestock species of antibiotic use in the livestock
10 industry operating in the State.
- 11 (3) Conduct a survey in the three counties of the State with the highest densities
12 of hog, poultry, dairy, and beef populations of operators or owners of livestock
13 production facilities, owners of the animals, and the feed mills providing
14 antibiotics for growth promotion, disease prevention, or disease treatment to
15 the livestock. The survey shall provide an initial estimate of the types,
16 amounts, application methods, and target species of antibiotic use in the
17 raising of those livestock in the State.
- 18 (4) Examine the occurrence and trends over the last decade of antibiotic resistance
19 to antibiotics used in livestock production (as identified in the annual United
20 States Food and Drug Administration Summary Report on Antimicrobials
21 Sold or Distributed for Use in Food-Producing Animals) in hospitals and
22 within other appropriate medical facilities serving the populations within the
23 10 counties with the highest densities of livestock in North Carolina and the
24 10 counties with the lowest densities of livestock in North Carolina.

25 **SECTION 3.(b)** The Division of Public Health of the Department of Health and
26 Human Services and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall jointly report
27 their findings and recommendations developed pursuant to this section to the Joint Legislative
28 Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services on or before January 1, 2024.

29 **SECTION 4.** Section 2 of this act becomes effective January 1, 2024. The remaining
30 sections of this act are effective when it becomes law.