

NAPA COUNTY LIVESTOCK COUNCIL

The Napa County Livestock Council was formed in response to the Napa County Planning Commission's request at the conclusion of the November 19, 2008, public hearing discussing a proposal to amend the Napa County Code section 18.08.040 affecting small lot animal husbandry uses.

The Council was formed by community members with expertise or longstanding experience with the various species of livestock with the goal of preserving the right to farm in Napa County by serving as a resource to the County of Napa by providing expertise and non-binding recommendations in animal husbandry issues and to help resolve disputes arising from these issues. The intention is for the Livestock Council to be a resource, so that the County won't have to regulate livestock issues.

The Napa County Livestock Council is an advisory group, not a regulatory group. Its members are volunteers with no authority to enter properties or seize animals. The council is self-selected for expertise and experience, with additional people being called upon from time to time, as needed. The website is the primary means of communication with the public, including husbandry resources, invitations to workshops, etc..

The Napa County Livestock Council will work closely with the County concerning any livestock related planning decisions, changes in County Code or other laws.

Napa County's land use is unique and unlike any other. The Napa County Livestock Council will serve to educate the citizens of Napa County and to assist the Planning Commission in preserving the Right to Farm in Napa County for future generations.

The Napa County Livestock Council use the following "triage system" for handling livestock-related complaints:

1. County will assess the issue in terms of the tools they have for handling livestock issues:
 - Existing Right to Farm ordinance.
 - Department of Environmental Health to address human health and water safety concerns.
 - Napa County Animal Control to investigate animal welfare, abuse or neglect issues.
 - Napa County Department of Conservation, Development and Planning Department for situations in violation of County Code.
2. If the issue cannot be resolved with the above steps, the Napa County Livestock Council will offer the following:
 - The owner of the livestock in question will be referred to the Livestock Council's website: www.napacountylivestockcouncil.com for species specific animal husbandry recommendations that would address issues such as fly control, manure management, dust abatement, etc.
 - The next step would involve a Livestock Council meeting to review the situation and a phone call from the appropriate Council member to discuss options.
 - A site visit by the Council member may be warranted if the prior steps fail to resolve the issue.
 - The Council will help resolve disputes.