

ANIMAL UNIT EQUIVALENCIES

Source: Maryland Department of Agriculture, 2000.

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The nutrient management law defines an agricultural operation or farm to be a business that produces and agricultural product, and that has a gross annual of income of \$2,500 or more, or has eight or more animal units. One animal unit is generally defined as 1,000 pounds of live animal weight. The numbers given below represent averages for different types of livestock. It may serve as a guideline for the number of animals of a certain type that would constitute eight animal units for purposes of nutrient management regulations. If actual weights are available from a certified scale, use them. For animals not listed here, contact MDA for guidance on weight calculations.

Animal Type	Animal weight (average in pounds)	Number of animals that would equal 8 animal units
Horses (any animals 3 months or older)	1,000	8
Feed Cattle	1,000	8
Dairy cattle	1,000	8
Sheep	200	40
Goat	89	90
Alpaca	107	75
Llama	320	25
Emu	133	60
Ostrich	267	30
Broilers/fryers	4	2,000
Ducks	7	1,200
Geese	12	650
Turkeys	19	425