
Environmental Assessment

C & H Hog Farms Inc.

03-072xxxxx



**Farm Service Agency
United States Department of Agriculture**

September 26, 2012

COVER SHEET

Proposed Action: The USDA, Farm Service Agency is proposing to provide Guaranteed FO funding for the following purpose:
Purchase 23.43 Acres and Construction of a Swine Farrowing Barn and a Swine Gestation Barn.

Type of Document: Class II Environmental Assessment

Lead Agency: USDA/FSA

Sponsoring Agency: N/A

Cooperating Agencies: SHPO, FWS, USFS, ADEQ, NRCS, FEMA, NPS

Further Information: Martha Gafford, FLO, FSA, 2898 Point Circle Box 2,
Fayetteville, AR 72704
Lonnie D. Ewing, FLM, Fayetteville, AR

Comments: This Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared according to USDA FSA National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementation procedures found in 7 CFR 1940 G, as well as the NEPA of 1969, Public Law 91-190, 42 U.S. Code 3s 4321-4347, 1 January 1970, as amended. A copy of this EA can be found at the local FSA County Office.

Written comments regarding this assessment shall be submitted to the local FSA County Office

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Executive Summary

1.0 Introduction:

The name and address of the producer proposing this action is C & H Hog Farms Inc. of P. O. Box 45, Vendor, Arkansas in Newton County Arkansas.. This is a Guaranteed Loan with Farm Credit Services of Harrison, AR. C & H Hog Farms Inc. is made up of Richard Campbell, Mary Campbell, Phillip Campbell, Julie Campbell, Tara Henson and Jason Henson. They are purchasing 23.43 acres from E. G. Campbell and are constructing one 82 foot 6 inch X 337 feet 1 inch Swine Farrowing Barn and one 117 Ft. 6 inch X 421 feet 4 inch Swine Gestation Barn. The farm will consist of 478.93 acres. It presently has a Cargill Hog operation that will shut down when the new barns are in production.

1.1 Background

The project is designed to provide FO funding for a Guaranteed loan with Farm Credit Services..

1.2 Purpose and Need

Richard Campbell, Mary Campbell, Phillip Campbell, Julie Campbell, Tara Henson and Jason Henson of C & H Hog Farms Inc. will be the primary beneficiaries of the project. This facility will allow them to produce hogs for Cargill in an up to date facility in Newton County. in Arkansas. They will be providing an agricultural service that is in great demand. This facility will allow them to produce hogs for Cargill efficiently and in modern and up to date structures. It is FSA's position that it is common knowledge that the local integrator, Cargill, has a need for hogs such as those that will be produced at this facility. This Guaranteed loan will also benefit Farm Credit Service of Western Arkansas. FSA's involvement will negate some of Farm Credit's risk associated with this loan.

1.3 Regulatory Compliance

1.4 Organization of EA

2.0 Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

Alternative designs and alternative projects were not considered for the following reasons: Alternative locations and construction of new houses was not taken into consideration until they found this location to purchase. The location is in close proximity to the integrator's feed mill and processing plant. The applicant wishes to produce hogs for Cargill, while living in a rural area.

2.1 Proposed Action

The project is designed to purchase 23.43 acres and to construct one farrowing barn and one swine gestation barn. This project is not located in a nutrient surplus area but public notices are required because there is construction and of the number of hogs to be placed. They will be placing 2500 hogs in this facility. This requires a Class II Environmental Assessment.

2.2 Alternatives

Alternate locations would not be favorable as the proposed location is in reasonable proximity to the feed mill and processing plant as well as the applicants residences. This is a rural area with numerous farms of comparable surrounding. The proposed project will eliminate any possible impact to the environment on an alternative location .

2.2.1 No Action Alternative

If the project is not completed, the community will lose the potential financial benefits of this project: (Integrator, utility companies, swine supply companies, etc.) In addition, as this tract is located in reasonable proximity to the feed mill (less than 100 miles).

2.2.2 Alternative A

Alternative projects were not considered due to this being the most favorable location.

2.2.3 Alternative B

Alternative projects were not considered.

2.3 Resources Eliminated from Analysis

Important Land Resources, Coastal Zone Management Areas, Coastal Areas, Coastal Barriers, and Sole Source Aquifers.

3.0 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

3.1 Biological Resources

3.1.1 Definition of Resource

Vegetation, wildlife, and protected species including threatened and endangered species and their designated critical habitat. Any endangered species in this area will not be harmed by complying with the Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan.

3.1.2 Affected Environment

There will be no impact to wildlife and /or any threatened or endangered species based on a clearance determination by Arkansas Fish and Wildlife. Since there is construction all environmental regulations will be followed.

3.2 Water Resources

3.2.1 Definition of Resource

Floodplains, wetlands, surface water quality, sole source aquifers, and wild and scenic rivers.

There are no wetlands on this farm and a CNMP is to be followed to ensure water quality is maintained and ensure there are no adverse impacts.

3.2.2 Affected Environment

The potential impact to the environment will be eliminated by following the Waste Management Plan. Water quality will be protected by producer's adherence to their CNMP. There is a rural water supply on the farm. A well is proposed for the farm. That will serve as a back-up water supply. This project is not located within a Sole Source Aquifer Recharge Area.

3.3 Cultural Resources

3.3.1 Definition of Resource

Properties created by man and generally more than 50 years of age.

3.3.2 Affected Environment

SHPO has issued a blanket clearance letter for existing operations.

3.4 Soil Resources

3.4.1 Definition of Resource

Highly Erodible Soils present within the area of impact.

3.4.2 Affected Environment

According to NRCS-CPA-026E, there are no Wetlands present on the farm.

3.5 Air Quality

3.5.1 Definition of Resource

Sources of air pollution which include stationary, mobile, and agricultural sources.

3.5.2 Affected Environment

The majority of emissions will come from swine litter. Compliance with the CNMP should keep emissions to a minimum. Motor vehicle traffic will only increase during construction then there will only be transportation of the

swine and feed. No tract of land involved in this proposal is located within an area protected by the clean Air Act. ADEQ does not require permitting regarding air quality of non-industrial projects. Applicants should comply with CNMP for land application and storage.

3.6 Socioeconomics

3.6.1 Definition of Resource

Population, housing, income, and employment of the activity area.

3.6.2 Affected Environment

There will be no noticeable increase in population as a result of this proposal. There will be no impact to the area's public and community services as there will be no significant increase to the population after completion of this project. This project will not have an impact on the income of nearby residents.

3.7 Environmental Justice

3.7.1 Definition of Resource

Impact to minority and low income populations

3.7.2 Affected Environment

There will be no impact on minority and low income populations as a result of this project.

3.8 Important Land Resources

3.8.1 Definition of Resource

Prime farmland, unique farmland, prime forestland, and prime rangeland.

3.8.2 Affected Environment

This project does not directly or indirectly convert any important land resources.

3.9 Wilderness Areas

3.9.1 Definition of Resources

Areas determined to be "wilderness" as defined by The Wilderness Act.

3.9.2 Affected Environment

This project is not located in a Wilderness Area (map attached)

3.10 Coastal Zone Management Areas

3.10.1 Definition of Resource

Lands, water, or natural resources located in the coastal zone.

3.10.2 Affected Environment

There are no Coastal Zone Management Areas in Arkansas

3.11 Coastal

3.11.1 Definition of Resource

Lands, waters, or natural resources located along the coast.

3.11.2 Affected Environment

There are no coastal areas in Arkansas

3.12 Barriers

3.12.1 Definition of Resource

Landforms that provide protection for diverse aquatic habitats and serve as the mainland's first line of defense against the impacts of coastal storms and erosion.

3.12.2 Affected Environment

There are no coastal barrier systems in Arkansas

4.0 Cumulative Impacts

4.1 Introduction

This section of the assessment is dedicated to the review of the possible cumulative impacts the applicant's proposed activity may present in the Newton County area.

4.2 Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Actions

To the knowledge of the preparer, the only past activity associated with the subject property was the building of the original two swine barns. Once construction is complete for the two new swine barns the old ones will not be in operation.

4.3 Cumulative Analysis

Based upon my review of the applicant's proposal, the activity to be completed will not present a negative environmental impact, whether it be individually or cumulatively.

5.0 Mitigation Measures

Mitigation is not required at this time. Applicants will need to comply with their CNMP.

6.0 List of Preparers

Lonnie D. Ewing , Farm Loan Manager and
Martha Gafford, FLO, FSA, 2898 Point Circle Box 2, Fayetteville, AR 72704

7.0 List of Persons and Agencies Contacted

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Department of Arkansas Heritage, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Arkansas National Resources commission.

8.0 References

See attached documentation.

Martha Gafford
Signature of Preparer

09/26/2012
Date (MM-DD-YYYY)

Martha Gafford
Name of Preparer

FLO
Title of Preparer

Signature of Concurring Official

Date (MM-DD-YYYY)

District Loan Specialist
Title of Concurring Official

[Signature]
Signature of SEC

10-01-2012
Date (MM-DD-YYYY)

off Hog Farm

Martha Gifford
Signature of Preparer

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Tom Howard
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Title of Concurring Official

James Stewart
Signature of SEC

10/25/2012
Date (MM-DD-YYYY)

C & H Hog Farm

United States Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
For

Construction of 82'6" x 337' 1" Swine Farrowing Barn and 1 117' 6" X 421' 4"
Swine Gestation Barn for C & H Hog Farms Inc. located in S26, T15N, R20W in
Newton County, Arkansas.

The United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (FSA) has prepared a Final Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the environmental consequences associated with construction of 82' 6" X 337' 1" swine farrowing barn and 1 117'6" X 421'4" swine gestation barn for C & H Hog Farms, Inc. located in S26, T15N, R20W in Newton Co., Arkansas.

The purpose of this action is to allow C & H Hog Farms, Inc. to produce hogs for Cargill in up to date structures in Newton County, AR..

Proposed Action

The proposed action is to construct a 82'6" X 337'1" swine farrowing barn and 1 117'6" X 421'4" swine gestation barn. In consideration of the analysis documented in the Class II EA and the reasons outlined in this FONSI, the preferred alternative would not constitute a major State or Federal action that would significantly affect the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. The determination is based on the following:

1. Both beneficial and adverse impacts of implementing the preferred alternative have been fully considered within the EA. The beneficial impacts outweigh any adverse impacts. Adverse cumulative impacts are expected to be minor as implementation of the preferred alternative will cause very little if any adverse impact on the area of potential effect and the human environment.
2. The preferred alternative would not significantly affect public health or safety.
3. The preferred alternative would not significantly affect any unique characteristics which includes historic and cultural resources, parklands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.
4. The preferred alternative does not involve effects to the quality of the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial.
5. The preferred alternative would not impose highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.
6. The preferred alternative would not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects and does not represent a decision in principle about a future consideration.
7. The preferred alternative is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulative significant impacts. The Environmental Consequences section of the Environmental Assessment discusses potential cumulative impacts of implementing the preferred alternative. Cumulative impacts of implementing the preferred alternative were determined to not be significant.
8. The preferred alternative would not adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources. Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office was completed.
9. The preferred alternative would not have adverse effects on threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat. In accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the effects of implementing the preferred alternative on threatened and endangered species and designated critical habitat were addressed in the Environmental Assessment. Informal consultation with the U.S. Fish Wildlife Service was completed.
10. The preferred alternative does not threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

Determination:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and FSA's Environmental regulations at FSA Handbook 1EQ implementing the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality, 40 CFR parts 1500-1508, I find that neither the proposed action nor any of the alternatives is a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, no environmental impact statement will be prepared.

Approved: 
Signature

8-24-12
Date

Lonnie D. Ewing
Name:

FLM
Title

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