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NEWS RELEASE

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REPORT PRESENTS A FIVE YEAR UPDATE ON IDAHO'S INTERAGENCY CAFO SITING PROGRAM

Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) staff recently finalized a confined animal feeding operation (CAFO) technical report entitled "CAFO Siting Team Annual Report for 2006". The summary focuses on 2006 CAFO siting statistics and siting statistics since the inception of the "Site Advisory Suitability Determination Act" of 2001. The summary is available on the ISDA website at:

<http://www.agri.idaho.gov/Categories/Environment/water/gwReports.php>

On July 1, 2001, the Site Advisory Suitability Determination Act became law creating a CAFO site advisory team comprised of members from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Department of Water Resources, and the Department of Environmental Quality. The rules governing the CAFO site advisory team are followed to provide "suitability determinations" on proposed livestock operations based on environmental risk. The suitability determination is provided to the county for their consideration when deliberating conditional use or livestock confinement operation permits.

The Idaho State CAFO Siting Team conducted 21 site assessments in 2006 and 80 total assessments since 2001. A majority of suitability ratings since 2001 have been low risk (75%), approximately a quarter have been moderate risk (24%), and one site was high risk (1%). Four counties (Jerome, Cassia, Gooding, and Twin Falls) account for two-thirds of the assessments since the inception of the Site Advisory Suitability Determination Act in 2001. The number of sitings has increased each year from 2004 through 2006, with more than 20 assessments requested for the first time in 2006.