

**Other Pamphlets in EPA's CAFO Clean Water Act Requirements Information Series**

*Will My Operation Be Regulated?*  
**EPA 833-F-02-006**

*What Are the Federal Requirements for Swine CAFOs?*  
**EPA 833-F-02-007**

*What Are the Federal Requirements for Chicken and Turkey CAFOs?*  
**EPA 833-F-02-008**

*What Are the Federal Requirements for Beef Cattle and Veal Calf CAFOs?*  
**EPA 833-F-02-0010**

*What Are the Federal Requirements for Horse and Sheep CAFOs?*  
**EPA 833-F-02-0011**

*What Are the Federal Requirements for Duck CAFOs?*  
**EPA 833-F-02-0012**

*What Are the Federal Record-Keeping and Reporting Requirements?*  
**EPA 833-F-02-0013**

**How do I contact my permitting authority?**

Visit [www.epa.gov/npdes/afo/statecontacts](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/afo/statecontacts) for contact information on your permitting authority.

**Where can I get copies of these brochures and more information?**

Call the Office of Water Resource Center, (202) 566-1729 to request copies of these pamphlets and other documents. Call the CAFO Phone Line at (202) 564-0766 with questions or visit the following EPA or USDA web sites.

**EPA:**

[www.epa.gov/npdes/caforule](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/caforule)  
[www.epa.gov/agriculture](http://www.epa.gov/agriculture)

**USDA:**

[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)

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# Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations

## *Clean Water Act Requirements*

**What Are the Federal Requirements for Dairy Cow and Heifer CAFOs?**



*In December 2002, EPA revised the Clean Water Act regulation for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, or CAFOs. If you own or operate a dairy cow or heifer CAFO, you must apply for a permit. This pamphlet gives general information about what your permitting authority might require in your CAFO's permit.*

*Information Series Pamphlet*

United States  
Environmental Protection Agency (4203)  
Washington, DC 20460  
Official Business  
Penalty for Private Use \$300

## Is my dairy cow or heifer operation a CAFO?

Your operation is a CAFO if it is an animal feeding operation (AFO) and it meets one of the following conditions

See the pamphlet *Will My Operation Be Regulated?* for the definition of an AFO.

### Large CAFOs

Your dairy cow or heifer AFO is a Large CAFO if it has at least

- ✓ 700 dairy cows
- ✓ 1,000 heifers

### Medium CAFOs

Your dairy cow or heifer AFO is a Medium CAFO if it has at least

- ✓ 200 dairy cows
- ✓ 300 heifers

and

- ✓ a man-made ditch or pipe carries manure or wastewater from your operation *or*
- ✓ your animals come into contact with surface water running through the area where they're confined

### Designated CAFOs

No matter what size your operation is, if it is an AFO, it can be designated a CAFO. If your permitting authority inspects your operation and finds that it's adding pollutants to surface waters, your operation might need a CAFO permit.

## My operation is a CAFO. What do I have to do?

You must apply to your permitting authority for a permit. Most states have the authority to manage CAFO programs and issue permits. State CAFO programs are based on the revised national regulation. You can use this pamphlet to help you learn about the *minimum* requirements for a permit. You should contact your permitting authority to find out what your *state-specific* requirements are and how to apply for a permit. Check the insert to this pamphlet for your permitting authority's contact information.

## What will my operation's permit require?

Your CAFO permit will require you to meet certain conditions for your production and land application areas. The specific requirements of your permit will depend on whether your operation is a Large, Medium, or designated CAFO.

The *production area* is the area where your animals are housed and manure is stored.

### Requirements for all dairy cow or heifer CAFOs

You can expect your permit to require you to

- ✓ Implement a nutrient management plan
- ✓ Submit annual reports to your permitting authority
- ✓ Keep your permit current until you completely close your operation and remove all manure
- ✓ Keep records of your nutrient management practices for at least 5 years (See the pamphlet *What Are the Federal Record-Keeping and Reporting Requirements?*)

### Nutrient management plans for all dairy cow and heifer CAFOs must include provisions for

- ✓ Assuring adequate manure storage capacity
- ✓ Proper handling of dead animals and chemicals
- ✓ Diverting clean water from the production area
- ✓ Keeping animals out of surface water
- ✓ Using site-specific conservation practices
- ✓ Developing ways to test manure and soil
- ✓ Assuring appropriate use of nutrients when you spread manure
- ✓ Keeping records of your nutrient management practices

The *land application area* includes all the land under your control where you spread manure.

### Your permitting authority might set more requirements for any size CAFO.

### Requirements for Medium and designated dairy cow or heifer CAFOs

Your permitting authority might set more requirements for your nutrient management plan. These requirements will depend on the permit writer's best professional judgment and could be like the requirements for Large dairy cow or heifer CAFOs.

### Requirements for large dairy cow or heifer CAFOs

Nutrient management plans for Large dairy cow or heifer CAFOs have more requirements for production and land application areas.

### Production area

- ✓ Design your production area to contain all of your CAFO's manure plus the runoff from a 25-year, 24-hour rainfall event (large storms). (Overflows from large storms are allowed only if your operation is designed and operated to meet these specifications.)
- ✓ Install depth markers in liquid manure storage structures
- ✓ Inspect your production area weekly and all water lines daily
- ✓ Correct any problems you find as soon as possible
- ✓ Properly handle dead animals

### Land application area

- ✓ Apply manure at rates that meet your permitting authority's standards
- ✓ Analyze manure for nutrient content at least once a year
- ✓ Analyze the soil from your land application fields for phosphorus amounts every 5 years
- ✓ Avoid applying manure to any land within 100 feet of surface water
- ✓ From time to time, inspect your land application equipment for leaks

Some Large dairy cow or heifer CAFOs may qualify for equivalent discharge allowances. If you use *innovative technologies*, like treating wastewater in your production area, ask your permitting authority about your options.

### Transferring manure to other persons

- ✓ Keep records for at least 5 years on the date, recipient, amount, and nutrient content of the manure you transferred
- ✓ Information about the nutrient content of your manure must be given to the recipient