



Applying knowledge to improve water quality

# Pacific Northwest

## Regional Water Program

A Partnership of USDA NIFA  
& Land Grant Colleges and Universities

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PNWWATER 022

### OREGON: Help for Livestock and Poultry Producers

The Clean Water Act regulations for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) were changed in December 2002. These newly revised regulations change the permit requirements for some livestock operations. Some facilities that did not need permits will be required to have them. Other livestock producers will encounter additional requirements. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) offers a General Permit which provides sufficient coverage for most CAFOs. Assistance is available. This brochure is designed to help you determine if you need to apply for a permit and to find the assistance you need.

#### *Is my operation an animal feeding operation (AFO) according to federal regulatory definitions?*

There are two criteria to define AFOs. An AFO (a) confines animals at least 45 days in a year, and (b) there is no grass or other vegetation growing in the confinement area.

#### *Do I need a permit for my operation?*

The answer is yes, if any one of the following conditions apply:

1. Yours is a **Large CAFO** as defined by Table 1.
2. Yours is a **Medium CAFO** as defined by Table 1 and
  - a. A man-made ditch carries wastewater from the operation, or
  - b. Animals come into contact with surface water running through the confinement area.
3. Your operation has been formally designated a federal CAFO by the State of Oregon because it was found to be adding pollutants to waters of the state.
4. Your operation confines animals in a building or on a prepared surface for more than four months per year and has a wastewater control facility.

#### *What are the changes that will impact livestock producers?*

1. The basic concept has not been changed. That says that all manure and runoff from rainfall and snowmelt must be captured and kept out of streams except when a storm event exceeds the 25 year – 24

hour storm for your area. Liquid manure storage tanks and basins must have a depth marker.

2. The regulation has been broadened so that poultry producers with dry manure handling systems are required to have a permit if they qualify according to size as defined in Table 1.
3. In Oregon, livestock operations which
  - (a) qualify as either medium or large CAFOs according to the federal guidelines (Table 1),
  - (b) have been designated a CAFO by ODA, or
  - (c) have wastewater control facilities required to be covered under the Oregon CAFO General Permit. The Oregon CAFO General Permit holders must prepare an animal waste management plan which is a detailed description of facilities and operations with respect to containment, treatment, storage, and disposal of waste and wastewater. The plan also describes how compliance with permit conditions and water quality laws will be achieved and maintained.
4. The goal of the Oregon Department of Agriculture is that each permitted CAFO will receive one routine inspection per year by an ODA Livestock Water Quality Specialist.

#### *Who is the permitting agency for livestock producers in Oregon?*

The Oregon Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Division is the designated state agency responsible for confined livestock and poultry operations in Oregon. The Department of Agriculture has this responsibility through a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Environmental Quality. There are ODA Livestock Water Quality Specialists in the six regions of the state. You can get the name and phone number of the specialist for your area by contacting the CAFO Program in Salem (CAFO Program, Natural Resources Division, 635 Capitol Street NE, Salem, OR 97310; (503) 986-4700).



**Pacific Northwest Regional Water Quality Coordination Project Partners**

**Land Grant Universities**

**Alaska**

Cooperative Extension Service  
Contact Fred Sorensen:  
907-786-6311

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/water/>

University Publications:

<http://www.alaska.edu/uaf/ces/publications/>

**Idaho**

University of Idaho  
Cooperative Extension System  
Contact Bob Mahler: 208-885-7025

<http://www.uidaho.edu/wq/wqhome.html>

University Publications:

<http://info.ag.uidaho.edu/Catalog/catalog.htm>

**Oregon**

Oregon State University  
Extension Service  
Contact Mike Gamroth: 541-737-3316

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/>

University Publications:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/>

**Washington**

Washington State University  
WSU Extension  
Contact Bob Simmons:

360-427-9670 ext. 690

<http://wawater.wsu.edu/>

University Publications:

<http://pubs.wsu.edu/>

Northwest Indian College  
Contact Charlotte Clausing:  
360-392-4319

cclausing@nwic.edu or

<http://www.nwic.edu/>

**Water Resource Research Institutes**

Water and Environmental Research Center (Alaska)

<http://www.uaf.edu/water/>

Idaho Water Resources Research Institute

<http://www.boise.uidaho.edu/>

Institute for Water and Watersheds (Oregon)

<http://water.oregonstate.edu/>

State of Washington Water Research Center

<http://www.swwrc.wsu.edu/>

**Environmental Protection Agency**

EPA, Region 10

The Pacific Northwest

<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/>

Office of Research and Development, Corvallis Laboratory

<http://www.epa.gov/wed/>

For more information contact Jan Seago at 206-553-0038 or [seago.jan@epa.gov](mailto:seago.jan@epa.gov)

**Does the U.S. Department of Agriculture have any programs that can assist land owners in meeting manure handling issues?**

Yes, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has extensive technical knowledge and a number of practices that can be helpful in manure management. In Oregon, you may contact your local NRCS office. You may get the phone number of your local office from the telephone directory or from the NRCS web site ([www.or.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov)).

**Can I contact the Environmental Protection Agency to better understand the federal requirements for pollution control from CAFOs?**

Yes, the US EPA contact in their Seattle office is:

David Domingo  
NPDES Permit Unit  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101  
(206) 553-0531  
[domingo.david@epa.gov](mailto:domingo.david@epa.gov)

**Does the Oregon State University Extension Service have expertise that can help individuals or groups of livestock or poultry producers meet the new pollution abatement regulations?**

Yes, you may contact your local county office or you may also contact either of the following. They have both participated in detailed discussions of the regulations and are prepared to assist you.

Gail G. Andrews  
Bioresource Engineering  
Oregon State University  
Corvallis, OR 97331  
(541) 737-6294  
[glickg@onid.orst.edu](mailto:glickg@onid.orst.edu)

Randy Mills  
OSU/Umatilla County Extension Office  
PO Box 100  
Pendleton, OR 97801  
(541) 278-5403  
[randy.mills@oregonstate.edu](mailto:randy.mills@oregonstate.edu)

**Table 1. Animal numbers which determine if a particular operation qualifies as a Medium or Large CAFO. Remember that an animal feeding operation of any size can be designated as a CAFO if it is found to be adding pollutants to surface waters.**

Operation	Large CAFO	Medium CAFO
	# of animals	# of animals
Dairy	700 mature cows	200 mature cows
Beef cattle	1,000 beef cattle or heifers	300 beef cattle or heifers
Swine	2,500 animals weighing over 55 lbs	750 to 2,499 animals weighing over 55 lbs
Swine, nursery	10,000 animals each weighing less than 55 lbs	3,000 animals each weighing less than 55 lbs
Ducks, other than liquid manure handling system	30,000 ducks	10,000 ducks
Ducks, liquid manure handling system	5,000 ducks	1,500 ducks
Chickens, liquid manure handling system	30,000 chickens	9,000 chickens
Chickens, laying hens, other than liquid manure	82,000 laying hens	25,000 laying hens
Chickens, except laying hens, other than liquid manure	125,000 chickens	37,500 chickens
Veal calves	1,000 veal calves	300 veal calves
Horses	500 horses	150 horses
Sheep or lambs	10,000 sheep or lambs	3,000 sheep or lambs
Turkeys	55,000 turkeys	16,500 turkeys

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