



Livestock and Poultry Environmental Stewardship (LPES) curriculum

CAFO Fact Sheet series

Fact Sheet #30: Financial and Technical Assistance Available to CAFO Owners and Operators

Disclaimer

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Introduction

On December 16, 2002, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its revised National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Effluent Limitation Guidelines (ELGs) rule affecting concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). The revised rule contains changes that will affect primarily large livestock and poultry operations nationwide. The rule requires CAFO owners/operators to develop and implement a nutrient management plan (NMP) as a permit requirement. EPA indicates that a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) will satisfy permit requirements. Technical and financial assistance is available from NRCS to help CAFO owners/operators plan and implement CNMPs and other conservation systems and practices in CAFOs.

EPA's CAFO Rule

Major changes made by EPA in its revised CAFO Rule include:

- All Large CAFO owners/operators must apply for an NPDES permit or demonstrate that they have no potential to discharge into waters of the United States.
- Large poultry operations using dry waste management systems are now covered by the CAFO rule.
- New Source poultry, swine, and veal operations must meet a "no discharge" standard. This standard only allows for discharge from the production area in the event of a 100-year, 24-hour storm or greater.
- CAFOs covered by an NPDES permit are required to develop and implement a site-specific NMP that addresses the most limiting nutrient on land where manure is applied.

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EPA's CAFO Rule (continued)

EPA estimates approximately 15,500 livestock and poultry operations will be required to obtain NPDES permits under the revised rule or demonstrate that they have no potential to discharge. This estimate includes 11,000 large operations, and 4,500 medium-sized operations that meet certain conditions.

Financial Assistance

The 2002 Farm Bill offers several voluntary conservation programs that producers can use to help them comply with the revised CAFO Rule. Financial assistance to implement practices and systems is available through the following programs:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program
- Additional Conservation Programs

EQIP

EQIP provides up to 75% (up to 90% for beginning or limited resource producers) in cost-share funds to assist producers in implementing conservation systems and addressing regulatory requirements. EQIP funds can be used to develop CNMPs, which are expected to satisfy the CAFO Rule's NMP requirement. By statute, at least 60% of EQIP financial assistance funds are required to be used for livestock and poultry operations, both confined and grazing.

AMA

AMA provides cost-share funds to assist producers in implementing conservation systems and addressing regulatory requirements. CAFO owners/operators may use program funds to develop and implement a CNMP. AMA funding is limited to producers in the following 15 states: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

Additional Conservation Programs

Other conservation programs may support CAFO owners/operators in their efforts to implement a well-rounded conservation plan. These programs include:

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)
- Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP)

Note: Individual states may offer additional financial assistance programs that provide cost-share funds to CAFO owners/operators. Visit your local NRCS office for more information.

Technical Assistance and Tools

NRCS, State, and Conservation District technical staff aid CAFO owners/operators through conservation planning, design, and implementation assistance. Producers may also obtain assistance from technical service providers (TSPs). TSPs are certified individuals, entities, or public agencies placed on a list of approved TSPs for each state. TSPs may provide technical services to program participants or NRCS. Only those individuals who are certified for specific categories of technical services and are included on the approved list may receive payments for technical services provided. For information on certification and to locate certified TSPs working in your state, visit the NRCS TechReg website at <http://techreg.usda.gov/>. You also may contact your local NRCS office for more information.

Technical tools are available to assist CAFO owners/operators with nutrient management planning and with conservation planning and design. These tools include:

- NRCS electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG)
- Animal Waste Management (AWM)
- Nutrient management planning tools

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NRCS eFOTG

The eFOTG contains practice standards for nutrient management practices. You may access the eFOTG at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/>.

AWM

AWM planning software is used to estimate the production of waste materials within an animal feeding operation and determine the size of storage/treatment facilities. You may access the AWM, along with the NRCS Agricultural Waste Management Field Handbook, at <http://www.wcc.-nrcs.usda.gov/water/quality/frame/animalws.html>.

Nutrient Management Planning Tools

A number of states have developed nutrient management tools that help livestock and poultry producers develop site-specific NMPs. These tools vary from computerized spreadsheets to hand-completed worksheets. Following are three examples of available nutrient management tools:

- The Manure Management Planner (MMP), developed at Purdue University, is a manure utilization planning tool designed to help develop NMPs. You may access MMP at <http://www.agry.purdue.edu/mmp/>. Linked to MMP is Spatial Nutrient Management Planner (SNMP), a decision support tool that facilitates the collection, analysis, and presentation of spatial information related to nutrient management planning. SNMP may be accessed at <http://www.cares.missouri.-edu/snmp/>.
- The Idaho One Plan website is a one-stop shop producers can use to develop site-specific conservation plans for their operations that satisfy all agency requirements. The website integrates all agency programs, government regulations, and conservation planning aids; provides self-help guides to assist in determining whether and how certain programs or regulations apply to their operation; and

identifies financial assistance opportunities. You may access this tool at <http://www.oneplan.org/>.

- AFOPro is a stand-alone nutrient management planning tool with optional connections to GIS and the NRCS's Animal Waste Management (v 2.1 or higher) engineering software. The application automates manure allocation decisions in compliance with the NRCS's 590 Standard, which requires the documentation of form, source, timing, method, and placement of nutrients. Access this application at http://www.esri.sc.edu/Projects/usda/application_development/afopro.asp.

Contact your local USDA Service Center or TSP for information on nutrient management planning tools available in your state. •

Definition of Terms

AMA—Agricultural Management Assistance program

AWM—Animal Waste Management

CAFO—Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation

CNMP—Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan

CREP—Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

CRP—Conservation Reserve Program

eFOTG—electronic Field Office Technical Guide

ELGs—Effluent Limitations Guidelines

EPA— U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

EQIP—Environmental Quality Incentives Program

MMP—Manure Management Planner

NMP—Nutrient management plan

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Definition of Terms (continued)

NPDES–National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

NRCS–Natural Resources Conservation Service

SNMP–Spatial Nutrient Management Planner

TSP–Technical service provider

USDA–U.S. Department of Agriculture

WHIP–Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program

WRP–Wetlands Reserve Program

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Reviewers

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For More Information

Environmental Regulations Related Resources

EPA CAFO Phone Line–202-564-0766

<http://www.epa.gov/npdes/caforule/>–To obtain copy of regulations

<http://www.epa.gov/npdes/afo/statecontacts/>–To obtain state environmental agency contacts

<http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/animals.html/>–To obtain compliance assistance information from EPA

http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/contacts.cfm?program_id=7&type=REGION/–To obtain EPA Region Animal Feeding Operation contacts

Land-Grant University Resources

The local contact for your land-grant university Cooperative Extension program is listed in the phone book under “Cooperative Extension” or “(county name) County Cooperative Extension.”

<http://www.reeusda.gov/1700/statepartners/usa.htm/>–To obtain state Cooperative Extension contacts

<http://www.lpes.org/>–To view the Livestock and Poultry Environmental Stewardship (LPES) curriculum resources

USDA Farm Bill Resources

To obtain more information about the Farm Bill 2002, see the USDA-NRCS website at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmland/2002/>. You can also contact your local USDA Service Center, listed in the phone book under “U.S. Department of Agriculture,” or your local conservation district.



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