ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS (AFOs)

Don Hall
Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Division of Water Quality (DWQ)
(801) 536-4492
dghall@utah.gov
A. Definitions
Utah Administrative Code (UAC) R317-8-10.2

1. AFO
2. CAFO
3. Designated CAFO
4. Large CAFO Threshold Numbers
5. Medium AFO Threshold Numbers
6. Small AFO Threshold Numbers
1. AFO Definition

Animal Feeding Operations (AFO) means a lot or facility (other than aquatic animal production facility) where the following conditions are met:

(a) animals have been, are, or will be stabled, housed, or confined and fed or maintained for a total of forty-five (45) days or more in any 12-month period;
(b) crops, vegetation, forage growth, or post harvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portion of the lot or facility; and
(c) two or more AFOs under common ownership are considered to be a single AFO if they adjoin each other or if they use a common area or system for the storage or disposal of waste.
2. CAFO Definition

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) means:

(a) an AFO that is a Large CAFO; or
(b) an AFO that is a Medium CAFO; or
(c) an AFO that is a Small AFO or Medium AFO that is a Designated CAFO.
3. Designated CAFO

- A designated CAFO is a Small AFO or a Medium AFO that is designated a CAFO by DWQ for discharges to surface water through direct animal contact or a man-made device (ditches, pipes, culverts, etc.).
## 4. Large CAFO Threshold Numbers

Large CAFO means an AFO that stables, houses, or confines the type and number of animals that fall within these ranges:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal Type</th>
<th>Threshold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beef, calves, and/or veal</td>
<td>1,000 or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cows (milking, dry)</td>
<td>700 or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layers, broiler (wet system)</td>
<td>30,000 or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickens, not layers (dry system)</td>
<td>125,000 or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layers (dry system)</td>
<td>82,000 or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkeys</td>
<td>55,000 or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swine (55 lbs or more)</td>
<td>2,500 or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swine (55 lbs or less)</td>
<td>10,000 or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep and lambs</td>
<td>10,000 or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horses</td>
<td>500 or more</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are no “large” AFOs. By definition, any AFO with these numbers is a Large CAFO. A Large CAFO is a CAFO whether or not it discharges.
5. Medium AFO Threshold Numbers

Medium AFO confines the type and number of animals that fall within these ranges:

- Beef, calves, and/or veal: 300-999
- Cows (milking, dry): 200-699
- Layers, broiler (wet system): 9,000-29,999
- Chickens, not layers (dry system): 37,500-124,999
- Layers (dry system): 25,000-81,999
- Turkeys: 16,500-55,000
- Swine (55 lbs or more): 750-2,499
- Swine (55 lbs or less): 3,000-9,999
- Sheep and lambs: 3,000-9,999
- Horses: 150-499
6. Small AFO Threshold Numbers

Small AFO confines the type and number of animals that fall within these ranges:

- Beef, calves, and/or veal: 1-299
- Cows (milking, dry): 1-199
- Layers, broiler (wet system): 1-8,999
- Chickens, not layers (dry system): 1-37,499
- Layers (dry system): 1-24,999
- Turkeys: 1-16,499
- Swine (55 lbs or more): 1-749
- Swine (55 lbs or less): 1-2,999
- Sheep and lambs: 1-2,999
- Horses: 1-149

Nearly all the AFOs in the State are medium and small sized AFOs. There are only about 65 Large CAFOs in the State. Most of the Small and Medium AFOs are unknown to DWQ.
B. Who Requires a CAFO Permit?

1. A Large CAFO that discharges pollutants to surface water.

2. A Medium AFO that discharges to surface waters from direct animal contact or discharges through a man-made device.

3. A medium or small AFO that is designated a CAFO from discharges to water.
C. Illegal Discharges

1. A discharge is the release of pollutants (manure, wastewater, feed, etc.) to surface waters or connections to surface waters (storm drains, ditches, etc.).

2. For AFOs and CAFOs, the discharge could be from a storm or snow melt event of any size, no matter how small or large.

3. Discharges could be from non-weather events such as water trough overflows, pond overflows, canal run-on, run-on from up-gradient properties, etc.).

4. All discharges to State waters are illegal except for certain discharges that are allowed for permitted CAFOs.

5. All illegal discharges can be subject to enforcement and penalties.

6. Agriculture return flows are allowed.
D. When to Contact DWQ for Observed Discharges

1. DWQ will respond to complaints about a possible illegal discharge from an AFO or a CAFO.

2. A few examples of when to contact DWQ are:
   a. sheet flow of manure or feed runoff to ditches, storm drains, sewer systems, washes, creeks, ponds, etc.
   b. runoff or wastewater contact with pipes, culverts, ditches, etc. that leave the property.
   c. releases of water from irrigation or precipitation to surface water from crop fields where manure is not incorporated into the soil.
   d. direct animal contact with surface water for watering or other direct body contact.
E. Examples of Discharge Problems
1. Runoff from field where manure was applied in the fall, was not incorporated, and discharges to surface water in the Spring. This is not an agriculture return flow.
2. Manure and feed runoff from corral to surface water.
3. Direct animal contact with surface water.
DWQ’s AFO/CAFO Contact

Don Hall
AFO/CAFO Program Coordinator
(801) 536-4492
dghall@utah.gov