



**Connecticut Department of
Energy & Environmental Protection**
Bureau of Materials Management & Compliance Assurance
Water Permitting & Enforcement Division

Environmental Permitting Fact Sheet

General Permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations

General Permit Overview

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, Water Permitting and Enforcement Division's General Permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO GP) is issued under the authority of EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) in compliance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act and Connecticut General Statutes Section 22a-430b. These federal and state laws, including NPDES regulations generally found at 40 CFR 122 – 125 and 40 CFR 412, serve as the regulatory basis for the provisions of this permit. The DEEP is authorized to issue general permits according to 40 CFR 233.21. A general permit sets terms and conditions for conducting an activity which, when complied with, are protective of the environment. General permits represent a streamlined process to permit specific activities and are more cost-effective for both the DEEP and the registrant.

Discharges Authorized by this General Permit

The CAFO GP was developed pursuant to EPA's NPDES Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) Program with the purpose of controlling point-source discharges of agricultural wastewater and stormwater from areas of animal confinement, feeding, and maintenance at CAFOs. Authorized discharges under the CAFO GP include those that may occur, under catastrophic or chronic rainfall conditions from a facility designed, constructed and operated to hold all agricultural wastes, agricultural wastewater, and the runoff from at least a 25-year, 24-hour rainfall event; and all other discharges in accordance with a site-specific Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP).

Facilities Authorized by this General Permit

The CAFO GP authorizes new and existing discharges from Large or Medium CAFOs and facilities designated as CAFOs (see Table below for definitions). Any entity that meets the definition of a CAFO, as defined by the federal regulations, but does not meet the requirements of this general permit may need to obtain an individual NPDES permit. Information regarding registration under an individual NPDES permit can be found on the DEEP website under Water Discharge Permits and General Permits.

Definitions

An **Animal Feeding Operation (AFO)** is defined as a feedlot or building or a group of feedlots or buildings (other than an aquatic animal production facility) where the following conditions are met:

1. animals have been, are, or will be stabled or confined and fed or maintained for a total of 45 days or more in any 12-month period, and
2. crops, vegetation, forage growth, or post-harvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portion of the AFO facility.

A **CAFO** is defined as an AFO that is a Large CAFO, a Medium CAFO, or a facility designated as a CAFO.

Animal Sector	Size Thresholds (number of animals)			
		Authorized Under This General Permit		
	Large CAFOs (per Federal Regulation)	Large CAFOs (per this General Permit)	Medium CAFOs ¹	Small CAFOs ²
cattle or cow/calf pairs	1,000 or more		300 - 999	less than 300
mature dairy cattle	700 or more	700 or more	200 - 699	less than 200
veal calves	1,000 or more		300 - 999	less than 300
swine (weighing over 55 pounds)	2,500 or more		750 - 2,499	less than 750
swine (weighing less than 55 pounds)	10,000 or more		3,000 - 9,999	less than 3,000
horses	500 or more		150 - 499	less than 150
sheep or lambs	10,000 or more		3,000 - 9,999	less than 3,000
turkeys	55,000 or more		16,500 - 54,999	less than 16,500
laying hens or broilers (liquid manure handling systems)	30,000 or more			
chickens other than laying hens (other than liquid manure handling systems)	125,000 or more		37,500 - 124,999	less than 37,500
laying hens (other than liquid manure handling systems)	82,000 or more	82,000 or more	25,000 - 81,999	less than 25,000
ducks (other than liquid manure handling systems)	30,000 or more		10,000 - 29,999	less than 10,000
ducks (liquid manure handling systems)	5,000 or more			less than 300

¹Must also meet one of two “method of discharge” criteria cited in the paragraph below to be defined as a CAFO, or may be designated as a CAFO on a case-by-case basis.

²May only be designated as a CAFO on a case-by-case basis.

**“Method of Discharge”
Criteria for Medium
CAFOs**

1. Pollutants are discharged into waters of the state through a man-made ditch, flushing system, or other similar man-made device, or
2. Pollutants are discharged directly into waters of the state, or otherwise come into direct contact with the animals confined in the operation.

**Facility Designated as a
CAFO**

A **facility designated as a CAFO** is an AFO that the Commissioner has determined is a significant contributor of pollutants based on an on-site inspection of the facility to determine the size of the facility, the location of the facility relative to waters of the state, the amount and means of conveyance of wastes and wastewaters reaching waters of the state, and any other factors affecting the likelihood and frequency of discharges to the waters of the state. No AFO shall be designated as a CAFO unless it is a significant contributor of pollutants to the waters of the state.

Permit Requirements

The requirements of the current general permit include:

- Registration to obtain permit coverage;
- Development and implementation of a comprehensive nutrient management plan or **CNMP**, which is described in the section below;
- Submittal of the CNMP with registration form and fee;
- Inspections of structural management practices as indicated in the approved CNMP;
- Maintaining records of land application activities in accordance with the approved CNMP;
- Submittal of annual report;
- Submittal of substantial changes to the CNMP, as identified in the CAFO GP,;
- Prohibition of discharge from the operation’s production area, except in the event of catastrophic or chronic conditions in accordance with the definition of “discharges associated with a CAFO” or in accordance with the approved CNMP;
- Recordkeeping, as specified in the CAFO GP and the CNMP;
- For Large CAFOs, additional requirements of the CNMP.

**Comprehensive Nutrient
Management Plan
Requirements**

A comprehensive nutrient management plan or **CNMP** is a site-specific plan for proper management of agricultural wastes and agricultural wastewaters, including runoff and seepage from land application areas, in order to minimize the impacts of animal feeding operations on water quality.

Preparation of the CNMP shall be in accordance with the goals of the NRCS Title 190, General Manual, Part 405-Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans. The CNMP is a description of the implementation of best management practices that will be used to comply with the conditions of the CAFO GP. The CNMP shall be reviewed and approved by a Certified Agricultural Planning Specialist. The permittee shall implement the CNMP in accordance with the schedule contained in the plan approved by the Commissioner, or any alternate schedule approved by the Commissioner.

Registration Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small CAFO - \$100 • Medium CAFO - \$250 • Large CAFO or proposed new CAFO - \$500
When to Register	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing Large and Medium CAFOs – on or before 365 days after issuance of the permit. • Designated CAFO – on or before 180 days after notification of designation. • For any proposed CAFO – on or before 180 days prior to initiating a discharge associated with the CAFO.
Permit Effective Date	This permit is effective on January 1, 2023.
Permit Expiration Date	This permit expires five (5) years after the effective date.
Effective Date of Authorization	An activity is authorized by this general permit on the date the Commissioner issues a written approval of registration with respect to such activity.
Requesting a Public Informational Meeting	Any member of the public may request a public informational meeting in writing regarding any proposed CAFO GP approval. The Commissioner may hold such meeting prior to approving or denying a Registration if in the Commissioner’s discretion, the public interest will be best served thereby. Any request for a public informational meeting shall include the name of the general permit noted above and also identify a contact person to receive notifications. All requests must be received within the 30-day comment period.
Permit Transfers	The CAFO GP is transferable upon the Department’s approval based on the submittal of a license transfer form.
Contact Information	Interested persons may obtain a copy of the general permit and this fact sheet on the DEEP website at https://www.ct.gov/deep/waterdischargepermitapps . The general permit is also available for inspection by contacting the Department's Water Permitting and Enforcement Division at 860-424-3025.