



# Fact Sheet

Fact Sheet 921

## Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations Guidelines

### Attention all Livestock & Poultry Producers

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has finalized the revisions to the National Pollutant Discharge Eliminations System (NPDES) and Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards (ELG) for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). The Maryland Department of the Environment also revised their regulations to reflect this rule. This fact sheet will help you as a producer decide if this rule applies to you and if you need to apply for a permit. The application deadline for this permit was February 27, 2009. Since this date has passed, send in your application as soon as possible.

### Do you need to apply for a permit?

Ask yourself these questions:

1. Does the number of animals in my operation fall into the Medium or Large size category in the Animal Feeding Operations table (Table 1)?
2. Do I have a discharge from my operation? Do I have a system of swales and/or pipes that discharges production area run-off either directly to waters of the state or to a ditch that

leads to waters of the state? Waters of the state are: public ditches, tax ditches, streams, ponds that overflow, rivers, the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Answering *yes* to both of the above questions means you will need to apply for a permit.

### How do I submit an application for a permit?

1. Fill out the application *Notice of Intent, General Permit for Discharges from Animal Feeding Operations, General Permit No. 09AF*. The application can be found at <http://www.mde.state.md.us/assets/document/AFO-NOI-09.pdf>
2. Mail the following to: *Maryland Department of the Environment, WMA, Suite 605, 1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21230.*
  - a. Completed Notice of Intent, General Permit for Discharges from Animal Feeding Operations, General Permit No. 09AF.
  - b. A copy of your Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (if you do not have a CNMP, send your current Nutrient Management Plan and your Soil Conservation and

Water Quality Plan along with a completed *Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan Status* form).

- c. DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY!
- d. Due date was February 27, 2009. Send in your application as soon as possible.

**Question:**

What if I have two small operations at two different locations—will I still need to apply for a permit?

**Answer:**

You will need to apply for a permit if there is common ownership of land between the two operations and if manure storage and/or land application of manure is shared between the two operations, and if the combined capacity meets or exceeds the medium CAFO number threshold.

For more information, contact Gary Kelman, Maryland Department of Environment, CAFO Program Manager at 800-633-6101, ext. 4423 or gkelman@mde.state.md.us.

**Table 1. AFO Table of Small, Medium, and Large Size Categories.**

| Animal Type  | Size Category—Number of Animals or House Capacity (ft <sup>2</sup> ) |   |
|--|--|---|
|  | Large  | Medium  |
| Cattle (includes heifers)                                  | ≥ 1,000 animals  | 300–999   |
| Dairy cattle   | ≥ 700 animals  | 200–699   |
| Horses   | ≥ 500 animals  | 150–499   |
| Veal   | ≥ 1,000 animals  | 300–999   |
| Swine ≥ 55 pounds  | ≥ 2,500 animals  | 750–2499  |
| Swine < 55 pounds  | ≥ 10,000 animals   | 3,000–9,999   |
| Sheep and lambs  | ≥ 10,000 animals   | 3,000–9,999   |
| Ducks with liquid manure handling                          | ≥ 5,000 animals  | 1,500–4,999   |
| Chickens with liquid manure handling                       | ≥ 30,000 animals   | 9,000–29,999  |
| Ducks with dry manure handling                             | ≥ 30,000 animals   | 10,000–29,999   |
| Laying hens with dry manure handling                       | ≥ 82,000 animals   | 25,000–81,999   |
| Chickens (other than laying hens) with dry manure handling | ≥125,000 animals or<br>≥ 100,000 ft <sup>2</sup>                     | 37,500–124,999 animals<br>and < 100,000 ft <sup>2</sup> |
| Turkeys  | ≥ 55,000 animals   | 16,500–54,999 animals                                   |

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by

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