

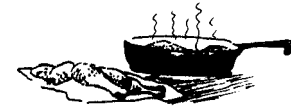


The University of Georgia

Cooperative Extension Service

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences / Athens, Georgia 30602-4356

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BROILER TIP...

UPCOMING ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATION REGULATIONS

In response to concerns that overall water quality in the United States has not improved in all regions and may be declining in some areas since the Clean Water Act was passed in 1972, President Clinton released the Clean Water Action Plan in 1998. One portion of this plan allowed the Environmental Protection Agency and the U. S. Department of Agriculture to work together to reduce surface runoff pollution (non-point source) from a variety of potential polluters, one of which was identified as animal agriculture.

As a result of their efforts, the Unified National Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations was published on March 9, 1999. Operations which confine animals for feeding purposes are termed Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs), which basically includes any commercial poultry or livestock operation. Although currently voluntary, the USDA/EPA expects that all AFOs will develop and implement Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMPs) in the next few years.

CNMPs will include: 1) feed management provisions, including use of phytase, enzymes, or low phosphorus corn to reduce phosphorus in manure; 2) manure handling and storage requirements, including diverting clean water from the facility, preventing manure leaks to water, providing adequate manure storage, manure treatments when appropriate, and adequate dead animal disposal; 3) proper land application of manure, using correct nutrient balances, timing of application, and methods if application; 4) land management, with appropriate tillage, crop usage, and buffers and borders employed; 5) record keeping, including soil tests and information on how, when, where manure was applied or sold; and, 6) utilization options, with appropriate options for power generation, composting, and transport/sale to others noted.

Also defined in this regulation are which farms and ranches are considered Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO's) and includes general information on how a CAFO will be regulated. It will generally be required to obtain an NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit from the state. The permit includes methods to prevent potential pollutant runoff or other water contamination, and includes a requirements for developing a CNMP. Currently, dry poultry

PUTTING KNOWLEDGE TO WORK

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litter operations are exempt from existing CAFO regulations, and most broiler and layer operations in Georgia will not automatically qualify for upcoming regulations, but those that do are scheduled to begin this program as early as next year.

More information will be provided when available. General criteria of a CAFO are on back of this page. Further information is also available from the EPA Region IV Office, 345 Courtland Street, NE, Atlanta, GA, 30365. The telephone number is 404-347-2019.

- CAFO Definition:**
- a) 1000 or more animal units on site for 45 days or more in any 12 month period and no crops, forage, vegetation sustained during growing season on any portion of facility; **OR;**
 - b) 300 or more animal units on site and pollutants either discharged into navigable waters or into water that originates outside facility but that passes through the facility or contacts animals; **OR**
 - c) any size operation that the agency deems a significant pollution source, although operations with less than 300 animal units must be directly discharging into navigable water, or into water passing through the facility, or water is contacting animals.

Animal Unit Definition: One animal unit = 1 beef feeder/slaughter animal.

Other animals have different equivalents as they are larger or smaller and produce different amounts of manure. Therefore 1,000 AU =

100,000 chickens (30,000 if lagoons are used)

55,000 turkeys

500 horses

700 dairy cattle

2500 hogs

10,000 sheep

All appropriate animals on-site are added together for the total operation figure. For example, 100,000 broilers = 1000 AU; 90,000 broilers (900 AU) + 10 horses (20 AU) + 80 cattle (80 AU) = 1000 AU

Source: EPA Office of Environmental Wastewater Management n Fact Sheet on NPDES Regulations Governing Management of Concentrated Poultry Feeding Operations USDA/EPA Unified National Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations.

"Poultry operators that remove waste from pens and stack it in areas exposed to rainfall or adjacent to a watercourse may be considered to have established a crude liquid manure system. Therefore, a facility that stacks waste in this way and that otherwise meets the regulatory CAFO definition may be considered to be a CAFO subject to the NPDES program."

Source: USDA/EPA Unified National Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations.

Douglas P Smith
Extension Poultry Scientist

County Extension Coordinator/Agent

Consult with your poultry company representative before making management changes.

“Your local County Extension Agent is a source of more information on this subject”