

How to Avoid CAFO Status

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The first criteria for being defined as a CAFO is size. See the table on the back to determine whether you could have a small, medium, or large CAFO. Large CAFOs are CAFOs based only on the number of confined animals. Therefore, to avoid being a large CAFO, you must keep the numbers of animals below the cutoff levels.

Medium and small animal feeding operations (AFOs) can be defined or designated as CAFOs based on two additional criteria. Only one of the two criteria needs to be met, in order to be defined or designated as a CAFO. The two criteria are:

- 1) *“Pollutants are discharged into surface water through a manmade ditch, flushing system, or other similar **manmade device** from the animal feeding operation.”*

The key factor in this criterion is that a manmade device is used to channel wastewater into surface water. This includes practices like diverting lagoon water into an irrigation ditch or dry creekbed via a ditch or pipe.

- 2) *“Pollutants from an AFO are **discharged directly into surface water** that originates outside of the facility and passes over, across, or through the facility or otherwise comes into contact with the animals confined in the operation.”*

In other words, if a creek or irrigation ditch passes through or runs along side the confinement area and animals come into contact with this surface water, the AFO is discharging directly to surface water.

These criteria can be applied to small and medium AFOs in the following ways:

- A medium AFO is **defined** as a medium CAFO if either of the previous conditions exists.
- A medium AFO can be **designated** a CAFO if the state determines that the facility could be a significant contributor of pollutants to surface water.
- A small AFO can be **designated** a CAFO if either of the previous conditions exists, **and** the state determines that the facility could be a significant contributor of pollutants to surface water.

Inspect your AFO to see if either of these conditions is true on your operation. Then change it, so you won't be defined or designated as a CAFO in the future.

Table 1. AFOs are classified as small medium or large according to the following species animal numbers. Check the number of animals in your AFO.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Column A: Large</u>	<u>Column B: Medium</u>	<u>Column C: Small</u>
Beef cattle	_____ 1,000 or more	_____ 300 to 999	_____ less than 300
Veal	_____ 1,000 or more	_____ 300 to 999	_____ less than 300
Mature dairy cattle	_____ 700 or more	_____ 200to 699	_____ less than 200
Dairy heifers	_____ 1,000 or more	_____ 300 to 999	_____ less than 300
Swine (55 lbs or more)	_____ 2,500 or more	_____ 750 to 2,499	_____ less than 750
Swine (less than 55 lbs)	_____ 10,000 or more	_____ 3,000 to 9,999	_____ less than 3,000
Turkeys	_____ 55,000 or more	_____ 16,500to 54,999	_____ less than 16,500
Laying hens or broilers ¹	_____ 30,000 or more	_____ 9,000 to 29,999	_____ less than 9,000
Laying hens ²	_____ 82,000 or more	_____ 25,000 to 81,999	_____ less than 25,000
Chickens except laying hens	_____ 125,000or more	_____ 37,500 to 124,999	_____ less than 37,500
Ducks ¹	_____ 5,000 or more	_____ 1,500 to 4,999	_____ less than 1,500
Ducks ²	_____ 30,000 or more	_____ 10,000 to 29,999	_____ less than 10,000
Sheep or lambs	_____ 10,000 or more	_____ 3,000 to 9,999	_____ less than 3,000
Horses	_____ 500 or more	_____ 150 to 499	_____ less than 150

¹Only applicable to poultry operations with liquid manure systems

²Other than a liquid manure system