

If you answered **Yes to question 1** and **No to question 2** your facility is probably an **AFO**. Continue to questions 3 and 4 to help you determine if your facility might be a **Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO)**.

Do I have a CAFO?

3. Does your facility have areas where animal manure or wastewater can discharge or travel by pipe or ditch to “waters of the state”? (“Waters of the state” include any river, stream, creek, lake, ditch, irrigation canal or other surface waterway AND groundwater)

4. Does your facility have a waterway that moves through or next to your confinement area that comes in contact with animals or manure?

If your operation is an AFO and you answered **Yes to either question 3 or 4** your operation could be designated a **CAFO** and subject to permit requirements.

Why should I avoid being designated a CAFO?

- Permitted CAFOs are subject to regular inspections
- CAFOs must keep extensive records
- The NPDES permits include annual fees and potentially large fines for non-compliance.

Background

Livestock producers should be aware of recent changes in state and federal laws prohibiting water pollution. In 2003, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

(EPA) adopted new rules regarding animal feeding operations (AFOs) and concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). Under the new rules, certain AFOs can be designated as CAFOs and may be required to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. These permits are currently administered by the Washington Department of Ecology.

Where can I learn more?

Washington conservation district personnel have completed training to help you determine if your operation is at risk of being designated a CAFO.



An AFO with high risk of polluting adjacent surface water (Tip Hudson photo)

They can also help you develop management practices to address potential **major risk factors** including, but not limited to:

- Direct access to surface water
- Discharge of manure through ditch or pipe from confinement area
- High concentration of manure in high rainfall areas

- Absence of vegetation between confinement area and surface water

Producers also have the option of conducting a self-assessment to identify major risk factors and potential water quality problems. This tool can be found at <http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/dairy/joeharrison/publications.asp> or contact your local conservation district.

**For More Information Contact the Washington Association of Conservation Districts at
(360) 754-3588
(360) 757-1094**

Los granjeros también tienen la opción de conducir un auto-evaluación para identificar los factores de riesgo más grandes y los problemas potenciales para la calidad de agua. Puede encontrarse el método en el siguiente sitio Web:

<http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/dairy/joeharrison/publications.asp>



One method to reduce unmanaged surface water access & direct deposition of manure. (NRCS photo)

Additional Resources

Information regarding Washington State's NPDES permit can be obtained from **Washington Department of Ecology** at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/permits/dairy/permit.pdf> or by contacting Kevin Hancock, Water Quality Program at (360) 407-6283.

WA Association of Conservation Districts
<http://www.wacd.org/>

WA Department of Agriculture/ Livestock Nutrient Management Program
<http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/Livestock-Nutrient/Livestocknutrient.htm>

Washington State University Extension
<http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/dairy/joeharrison>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/afo/cafofinalrule.cfm>



Livestock Nutrient Management partnership includes: Your local Conservation District, Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, WA Association of Conservation Districts, Washington Cattlemen's Association, WA Department of Agriculture, WA Department of Ecology, and Washington State University Extension

Will my livestock operation require a permit?

It's important to know if **"this is you"**. You can make voluntary changes in your operation to reduce discharge and avoid permitting.



Do I have an Animal Feeding Operation (AFO)?

- 1. Does your livestock operation house or feed animals in a confined area for more than 45 days in any 12-month period?** (Note that this means ANY portion of a single day for a total of 45 days, not necessarily consecutive, in ANY 12 month period).
- 2. Does the animal confinement area sustain crops, vegetation, forage growth or post-harvest residues during the normal growing season?** (Note that occasional weeds are not considered "vegetation").