

# Medium CAFO General Permit

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) is preparing to re-issue the existing Medium Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) General Permit (GP). ANR is seeking feedback from stakeholders in advance of a formal public comment process.

## What is a CAFO permit?

- A National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit designed to cover point source discharges from farms.
- ANR administers NPDES permits in Vermont on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

## Why get a CAFO Permit?

- When a farm meets all conditions of the Medium CAFO permit, that farm is legally authorized to discharge under certain circumstances.
- A CAFO permit provides an option for farms that want NPDES coverage rather than coverage under the MFO GP.

## Who's Eligible for the General Permit?

- Medium farms (200-699 mature dairy cows) that can meet the requirements of the Medium CAFO GP are encouraged to apply.
- Medium farms that can't meet the Medium CAFO GP requirements can apply for an Individual Permit.
- Small and large farms that want a CAFO permit are encouraged to apply for an Individual Permit.

## Why Now?

- The existing Medium CAFO GP is expired and needs to be re-issued.
- Vermont is legally required to administer CAFO permits where they are necessary, such as for existing point source discharges (see diagram on next page).

### **DEC CAFO Program**

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## About the Medium CAFO GP:

- The Medium CAFO GP is administered by ANR-Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).
- It offers opportunities for the public to provide feedback, including on the NMP.
- It includes updated waste storage facility sizing and evaluation requirements.
- It requires farms to have a 25 ft vegetated buffer between land application areas and downslope surface waters, ditches, and conduits to surface water.
- It prohibits farms from using fertilizer in a buffer.
- It includes monitoring and reporting requirements that help demonstrate that the farm is following the permit.
- It specifies conditions where a discharge may be legally authorized.

## We Want Your Feedback!

ANR welcomes your questions and comments at a virtual stakeholder info meeting scheduled for:

Date: March 10, 2021 from 10:00 to 12:00

Virtual Meeting Link: <https://tinyurl.com/VTCAFO>

Call-in Number: 802-828-7667

Conference ID: 509 415 408#

\*The virtual meeting platform is Microsoft Teams. You do not need a Teams account to join the meeting, when you enter the web address above there will be an option to join online. If you would like to practice accessing a Teams meeting online before the meeting to ensure you're able to, email or call Clarice Cutler.

Email questions ahead to:

[Clarice.Cutler@vermont.gov](mailto:Clarice.Cutler@vermont.gov)

Review the draft general permit here:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/CAFO>

# CAFO Permitting Overview

