

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).

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 35 ft vegetated buffer between land application areas and downslope surface waters and ditches.
- It prohibits farms from using fertilizer in buffer areas.
- 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. Please call, or email questions and comments to Clarice at 802-490-6181, Clarice.Cutler@vermont.gov

Review the draft general permit here: <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/CAFO>

DEC CAFO Program

Clarice Cutler, Environmental Analyst
802-490-6181, Clarice.Cutler@vermont.gov

Chris "Chip" Gianfagna, Program Manager
802-490-6174, Chris.Gianfagna@vermont.gov

CAFO Permitting Overview

