



# Producers' Compliance Guide for CAFOs

Revised Clean Water Act Regulations for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)

*A guide to complying with EPA's 2003 revisions to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Regulation and Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations*



This document is only a guide to help you determine whether you might be regulated under the revised regulations for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and, if you are, what you might be required to do. This guide gives a general description of the federal CAFO regulations and therefore it does not necessarily contain the full set of detailed requirements in those regulations. It is very important to read the federal regulations and any state regulations for CAFOs and check with the agency that regulates CAFOs in your state to find out whether you need a permit and what your other legal requirements might be. If you do need a permit for your operation, you must carefully read the requirements in your permit and work with your permitting authority to find out exactly how to comply. Meeting the requirements described in this guide is not enough to ensure that you are in compliance with all the legal requirements that apply to your operation.



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## **Revised Clean Water Act Regulations for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)**

Office of Water  
Office of Wastewater Management  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

### **NOTICE**

Small Entity Compliance Guides are prepared pursuant to section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (SBREFA), Public Law 104-121. The statements in this document are intended solely as guidance to aid EPA, the States, and the public in applying the associated regulations. In any civil or administrative action against a small business, small government or small non-profit organization for a violation of the regulations, the court or administrative agency may consider the contents of this Small Entity Compliance Guide when determining what type of fine or penalty, if any, is reasonable and appropriate.

This document is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it a regulation itself. Thus, it does not impose legally binding requirements on any party, including EPA, States, or the regulated community. In particular, the use of the term "should" in this document is not intended to be legally binding. This guide may not apply in a particular situation based upon the circumstances, and EPA retains the discretion to adopt approaches on a case-by-case basis that differ from this guide where appropriate. Any decisions regarding a particular facility will be made based on the statute and regulations. Therefore, interested parties are free to raise questions and objections about the substance of this guide and the appropriateness of its application to a particular situation. EPA will, and States should, consider whether the recommendations or interpretations in this guide are appropriate in that situation. EPA may decide to revise this guide without public notice to reflect changes in EPA's approach to implementing the regulations or to clarify and update text. To determine whether EPA has revised this guide, contact EPA's Small Business Ombudsman Office or EPA's Office of Water.

In some places throughout the guide, EPA suggests alternative approaches that might make compliance easier and maybe even reduce costs. Because many of the decisions you must make to comply will depend on the specific conditions at your operation, you might need additional information. EPA encourages you to contact your permitting authority, local conservation district, NRCS office, Cooperative Extension Service, and/or other qualified professionals for advice.

### **Small Business Ombudsman**

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