

# Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Groundwater Permit Fact Sheet

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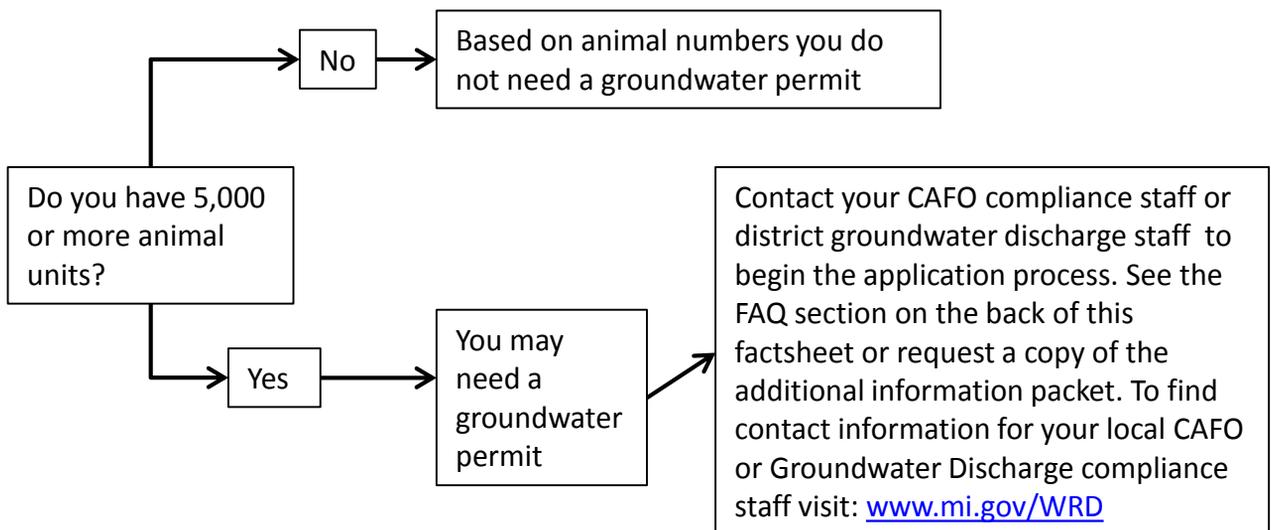
## WHEN IS A DEQ GROUNDWATER PERMIT REQUIRED?

A groundwater permit is required when an animal feeding operation has the equivalent of 5,000 animal units or more of one animal type as defined below. Facilities with animals at multiple locations may meet the 5,000 animal unit equivalent and should contact their CAFO compliance staff to determine if a groundwater permit is required.

5,000 Animal Unit Equivalents	
Animal Type	Number of Animals
Slaughter or Feeder Cattle (includes heifers and veal)	5,000
Mature Dairy Cattle	3,500
Hogs (55 lbs. or more each)	12,500
Sheep or Lambs	50,000
Horses	2,500
Turkeys	275,000
Laying Hens* or Broilers	150,000
Ducks	25,000

\*If your laying hen facility has over 150,000 chickens and discharges egg washing wastewater to the ground, a specialized groundwater permit is required. If it also land applies any manure produced at the facility, the permit issued will be an NPDES permit with groundwater components.

## Quick Reference: Do You Need a Groundwater Permit?



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What are the Steps for Getting a DEQ Groundwater Permit?**

1. Review this fact sheet and additional information packet to determine if you need a permit.
2. Request a pre-application meeting with the DEQ Water Resources Division Groundwater Discharge staff or CAFO compliance staff. There is no fee associated with the pre-application meeting.
3. Complete a hydrogeological investigation work plan. Upon approval of the work plan, complete the hydrogeological investigation and submit a report.
4. Complete and submit a Discharge Management Plan (DMP).

## **What are the Groundwater Permit Fees?**

The groundwater permit does not have an application fee, but there is an annual \$3,650.00 permit fee. This will be in addition to the regular permit application fee and annual fee associated with the facility's CAFO permit.

## **Will My CAFO have Two Separate Permits?**

Once your facility has 5,000 animal units or more you will need a NPDES CAFO and Groundwater Permit. The two permits will be combined together into one permit document from the DEQ and will address the requirements of both programs. The permit is effective for 5 years.

## **What are the Requirements for Waste Storage Structures?**

- Existing wastewater storage structures must meet a rule 323.2237 equivalency.
- All new wastewater storage structures must have a flexible membrane liner and base that meet rule 323.2237 standards.
- A professional engineer must sign and seal the plans stating they meet these requirements.
- Rule 323.2237 requirements are not equivalent to NRCS Waste Storage Facility Practice Standard No. 313 requirements; structures meeting NRCS Waste Storage Facility Practice Standard No. 313 requirements may not meet Rule 323.2237 requirements

## **Are Monitoring Wells Required?**

The majority of groundwater permits will require monitoring wells. They are typically sampled 4 times a year (quarterly). Parameters will be determined on a site-by-site basis.

## **Is a Field Review Required?**

All fields that have CAFO waste applied to them will be reviewed during the process. This does not mean that soil borings or monitoring wells will be required in all fields.

## **What is a Hydrogeological Investigation Work Plan and Report?**

A hydrogeological investigation work plan is a written document describing the process that will be used to evaluate the soil and groundwater at the facility and land application sites. A hydrogeological investigation report is a written document that outlines the findings of the hydrogeologic inspection and describes the characteristics of the soil and groundwater at the site. The work plan and report are typically completed by a qualified professional.

## **What is the difference between a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) and a Discharge Management Plan (DMP)?**

The purpose of a DMP is to provide the farm operator and compliance staff with important information regarding the farm's function, design and operation. Generally, CNMPs contain most of the components required in a DMP. Farm specific DMP requirements can be discussed during pre-application meetings between the farm and DEQ.