



# Water Quality Protection on New Jersey Farms

## IF YOU HAVE ANIMALS . . . YOU MUST COMPLY! Read on for details.

The Federal Clean Water Act (revised 2003) establishes a comprehensive program with the goal of protecting our Nation's waters. As part of the recent provisions to the Act, **concentrated animal feeding operations** (CAFOs):

- Have a mandatory duty to apply for an New Jersey Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems (NJPDES) permit and must comply with the federal effluent limitation guideline.
- Must prepare a Comprehensive Waste

Management Plan (CWMP) by March 1, 2004 and implement it by March 1, 2006, in accordance with NRCS standards.

- Are required to implement Best Management Practices

*You might think this requirement does not affect you; however, it could.*

(BMP's) (such as feed management) during the interim between having a CWMP prepared and implemented.

If you do not know if you are a CAFO please turn to page 3 of this newsletter to find out.

Any one operation that does not meet the definition of a CAFO could still be required to obtain a NJPDES permit if you are found to be discharging directly into United States' surface waters.

## EPA Awards Grant for Water Quality

A grant was awarded to the New Jersey Farm Bureau (NJFB) by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to help livestock farmers across the state identify potential sources of nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. The award adds to the ongoing efforts of a unique partnership of agricultural agencies and organizations that has been assisting farmers to do their part in reducing NPS pollution and enhancing water quality.

With the EPA now focusing their concerns about nonpoint source

(NPS) pollution on the state's animal feeding operations (AFO) and confined animal feeding operations (CAFO), Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) of Salem County and the New Jersey Farm Bureau (NJFB) have partnered together in order to help livestock producers prepare for more intense scrutiny of their farm management practices.

The AFO Outreach and Check-up Program, which is overseen by RCE of

Salem County and NJFB, will educate livestock producers about NPS pollution management before they are confronted with possible New Jersey Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) permit requirements and

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# EPA Awards Grant for Water Quality Protection on Farms

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enforcement actions. Using the workbook *On-Farm Strategies to Protect Water Quality* developed by the NJ Department of Agriculture, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Salem County and the New Jersey Farm Bureau, will engage landowners in the applications of this workbook by demonstrating its use on your farm, where potential NPS pollution might be occurring. RCE will also educate landowners on how to manage their resources to prevent possible discharges into surface water while maintaining prof-

itable and viable operations.

Using RCE of Salem County's already existing Agricultural Re-Engineering Initiative to weigh management alternatives can also assist landowners when it comes to assessing their business options. This tool is available to any interested agricultural producer.

As part of the continuing effort to take a proactive stance on the EPA's CAFO ruling; RCE of Salem County and the NJFB will extend themselves to livestock commodity groups and organizations in order to generate awareness about the coming CAFO regulation, nutrient man-

agement challenges and resources that are available to agricultural producers to minimize NPS pollution.

Please contact David Lee, RCE Agricultural Agent or Marie Banasiak, Programs Assistant for additional information on available support at (856) 769-0090.

## A Letter from Secretary Kuperus and Commissioner Campbell

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On July 18, 2003, Secretary of Agriculture (NJDA), Charles Kuperus and Commissioner of the DEP, Bradley Campbell, jointly mailed out a letter to New Jersey livestock owners and organizations in reference to water-quality permitting requirements in New Jersey. This letter was intended to educate the leaders of New Jersey livestock organizations about water-quality permitting requirements and to enlist the aid of these leaders in outreach to their organizations' members, as well as generate awareness amongst livestock owners. The following is a summary of the highlights from that letter:

- Businesses that maintain and feed large numbers of animals could qualify as a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) and must obtain a special general permit from DEP.

- If your operations meet the CAFO definition, you must apply for a permit now, develop a comprehensive waste management plan (CWMP) by March 1, 2004 and implement it by March 1, 2006.
- You likely will not be required to obtain a DEP permit if your operations confine fewer animals than the number specified by the DEP and you do not discharge directly to a stream or other water body.
- Animal feeding operations (AFO) are *strongly encouraged* to protect water quality by developing and implementing a *voluntary* farm conservation plan.

The Department of Agriculture is currently developing rules for animal feeding operations, and urges farmers to do the following:

- Assess your conservation plan to determine its effectiveness and if

needed make the necessary changes to address potential sources of NPS pollution;

- If you do not have a conservation plan, contact the Department of Agriculture for a free copy of the *On-Farm Strategies to Protect Water Quality*. This manual is a self-help guide and contains worksheets and guidance for developing a conservation plan. The New Jersey Department of Agriculture partners with the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and local Soil Conservation Districts to provide technical assistance and cost-share funding for conservation practices.

## Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) - Will My Operation Be Regulated?

Your operation is a CAFO if it confines more than the numbers of animals specified as follows:

- 1,000 slaughter and feeder cattle
- 700 mature dairy cattle (milked or dry cows)
- 2,500 swine (each 55 lbs or more)
- 500 horses
- 10,000 sheep or lambs
- 55,000 turkeys
- 100,000 laying hens or broilers (if facility has continuous overflow watering)
- 30,000 laying hens or broilers (if facility has a liquid manure handling system)
- 5,000 ducks; or
- 1,000 animal units (1 animal unit (A.U.) equals 1,000 lbs body weight.)

Also, a facility is a CAFO if it confines more than the number of animals specified *below* **and** directly discharges pollutants into

state waterways 1) through a man-made ditch, flushing system or other similar manmade device; or 2) as a result of water passing over, across or through the facility or having direct contact with confined animals:

- 300 slaughter or feeder cattle
- 200 mature dairy cattle (milked or dry cows)
- 750 swine (each 55 lbs or more)
- 150 horses
- 3,000 sheep or lambs
- 16,500 turkeys
- 30,000 laying hens or broilers (if facility has continuous overflow watering)
- 9,000 laying hens or broilers (if facility has a liquid manure handling system)
- 1,500 ducks; or
- 300 animal units (1 animal unit (A.U.) equals 1,000 lbs of body weight.)

*No matter what size your operation is, it may be designated as a CAFO!*

### Designated CAFOs

Any animal feeding operation (AFO) **is not** considered concentrated if it discharges only in the event of a 25-year, 24-hour storm event.

The DEP will require on a case-by-case basis any animal feeding operation (AFO) to obtain a permit if it:

- Is a significant contributor of pollution to the state's waterways.
- Discharges pollutants into state waters via a manmade ditch, flushing system, or other similar manmade device; or
- Discharges pollutants directly into state waters as a result of water passing over, across or through the facility or having direct contact with confined animals.

No matter what size your operation is, it may be designated as a CAFO. If the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) inspects your operation and finds that it's adding pollutants to surface waters, you might need a CAFO permit.

Any facility designated as a CAFO must obtain the NJPDES General Discharge Permit. You are encouraged to voluntarily protect New Jersey's water resources by using best management practices (BMPs) on your farm.

## What Rutgers Cooperative Extension Can Do For You

As part of a state-wide initiative to assist agricultural producers in complying with the CAFO regulation requirements before they are enforced on them; Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Salem County will educate animal feeding operations through various media about the regulations and options that are open to them. These options include confidential, voluntary farm visits by an extension representative to assist agricultural producers in identifying sources of potential

NPS pollution and ways of controlling it through the use of best management practices (BMP's). Financial management workshops are also available as a tool to assess costs involved in implementing changes to your operation. Additionally, RCE will educate members of animal organizations through informational sessions at their organizations meetings. Contact RCE at (856) 769-0090.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

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***My operation is a CAFO. What do I do now?***

You must apply for a permit. All forms are obtained either by calling the Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control at (609) 633-7021 or by downloading them at: [www.state.nj.us/dep/dwq/gps.htm#stormwater](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dwq/gps.htm#stormwater)

***What are the requirements of the CAFO general permit?***

The permit requires CAFOs to comply with the federal effluent limitation guideline that prohibits discharge to state waters, except when chronic or catastrophic storm events cause an overflow from a facility designed, constructed and operated to hold process wastewater, process generated wastewater plus stormwater runoff from a 25-year, 24-hour

storm event. For more specific information and other general permit requirements contact the Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control.

***How long is the duration for the NJPDES CAFO permit and is there a fee for it?***

It is a five-year permit and yes there is a fee.

***If I have ten horses, five goats, 15 sheep or 20 cows. Could I be required to obtain a permit?***

Yes.

***I would like someone to help me evaluate my agricultural operation for potential sources of water pollution. Who should I contact?***

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Salem County; Marie Banasiak at (856) 769-0090

- New Jersey Department of Agriculture/Local Conservation District; Ferrdows Ali (609) 292-5540
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); (732) 537-6043
- New Jersey Farm Bureau (NJFB); Gabi Grunstein, (609) 393-7163
- Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control (for CAFO permit questions); (609) 633-7021
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; Enforcement, Ed Post, (856) 614-3655

## About Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE)

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Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) helps the diverse population of New Jersey adapt to a rapidly changing society and improve their lives through an educational process that uses science-based knowledge. We focus on issues and needs relating to agriculture and the environment, management of natural resources, food safety, quality, and health; family stability; economic security; and youth development.

RCE is an integral part of Cook College, the New Jersey Agriculture Experiment Station, and Rutgers, the State University

of New Jersey, and funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, the State of New Jersey, and the County Boards of Chosen Freeholders.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension reaches people through meetings, workshops, conferences, publications, electronic communication, distance learning and mass media. Thousands of New Jerseyans are reached through the combined efforts of professionals and volunteers who provide educational programs in all counties throughout the state.

*Other Programs Offered by RCE of Salem County:*

- *Financial Management Workshops*
- *Risk Management Education*
- *Crop Insurance Education*
- *Nutrient Management*
- *Milk Quality*
- *Integrated Crop Management (ICM)*

*Contact Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Salem County for more program information at (856) 769-0090.*



Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Rutgers Cooperative Extension is an Equal Opportunity Employer.