



## Animal Feeding Operations

The [Environmental Protection Agency](#) defines an Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) in the [Code of Federal Regulations](#) (CFR, Federal Register, V. 68 No. 1, page 7265) as a lot or facility (other than an aquatic animal production facility) where the following conditions are met:

- Animals (other than aquatic animals) have been, are, or will be stabled or confined and fed or maintained for a total of 45 days or more in any 12-month period, and
- Crops, vegetation, forage growth, or post-harvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portion of the facility.

The definition of an AFO was developed by EPA as a regulatory definition to delineate confined feeding of beef cattle, dairy cattle, horses, swine, sheep, poultry, or other livestock from pasture-based systems (grazing systems were not meant to be regulated by EPA) for enforcement of the clean water act. The AFO classification is meant to apply to all sizes of operations and is the first step in defining an operation as a [Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation](#). Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations are facilities that require federal [National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System](#) (NPDES) water quality permits, irrespective of size. While state regulations differ from state to state, changes in 2003 to the NPDES permit program forced most state programs to adopt the AFO and CAFO designations, and thus the regulatory definition of an AFO is common across the United States.

YRCAA uses the AFO definition above in addressing operations in its jurisdiction where the potential for significant air emissions exists. YRCAA does not use the definition of CAFO for any purpose in its efforts to regulate air quality. The following operations are regulated within YRCAA's jurisdiction:

### Link internal

- Beef Cattle;
- Calving Operations;
- Dairy Heifer Replacement Operations;
- Dairy Operations; and
- Poultry Operations.

With the exception of poultry operations, YRCAA has developed and implements written, Board-approved policy to guide producers in complying with applicable regulations and working proactively to minimize air emissions. Each policy was developed with stakeholder involvement and involved a pilot implementation period. To view a policy, click on the link next to the AFO category above.

AFOs are required to register initially and annually with YRCAA. To find information about the YRCAA registration requirements, Installation or modification of any process or equipment which results in an air emission increase is subject to YRCAA new source review (NSR) and approval. To find information about the YRCAA NSR requirements.