

Do you need a permit for your AFO? Maryland AFO Program

What is an AFO?

"Animal Feeding Operation" or "AFO" means a lot or facility (other than an aquatic animal production facility) where the following conditions are met:

1. 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
2. Crops, vegetation, forage growth, or post-harvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portion of the lot or facility.

MAFO Permit

What is a MAFO?

A MAFO is an AFO that is not a CAFO, which is likely to cause a discharge to GROUND WATERS of the State.

No

3 How many animals do you have?

Large
125,000 Chickens (dry waste)
82,000 Laying Hens (dry waste)
700 Dairy Cattle
1,000 Beef Cattle
55,000 Turkeys
500 Horses
2,500 Swine (>55 lbs.)

Must apply for permit as a MAFO

Medium
Falls within the following size category and is a Chicken with dry waste between 37,500 and 124,499 animals AND total house capacity of 75,001 to 99,999 square feet.

If newly in this category, send in Certification of Conformance. Otherwise, apply for permit as a MAFO.

Medium/Small
Falls below the "Large" size and, if Chicken (dry waste), has a house capacity below 75,000 square feet OR less than 81,999 Laying Hens (dry waste)
699 Dairy Cattle
999 Beef Cattle
54,999 Turkeys
499 Horses

No permit needed unless designated by MDE as MAFO, then must apply for permit as MAFO.

No

No permit needed

1 Are you an AFO?

Yes

2 Does the operation discharge or propose to discharge manure, litter, or process wastewater to surface waters of the state?

A discharge occurs when manure, litter, or process wastewater leaves the site and reaches surface waters. Propose to discharge: the CAFO is designed, constructed, operated and maintained such that a discharge will occur. AFOs that actually discharge or propose to discharge that are in the following size categories must seek permit coverage from MDE.

3 How many animals do you have?

Yes

Large
125,000 Chickens (dry waste)
82,000 Laying Hens (dry waste)
700 Dairy Cattle
1,000 Beef Cattle
55,000 Turkeys
500 Horses
2,500 Swine (>55 lbs.)

Must apply for permit as a CAFO

Medium
Falls within the following size category and either:
1. has a manmade ditch, flushing system, pipe or similar manmade device that carries manure, litter or process wastewater to surface water; or
2. the animals come into direct contact with surface water that passes through the area where the animals are confined.
37,500-124,999 Chickens (dry waste)
25,000-81,999 Laying Hens (dry waste)
200-699 Dairy Cattle
300-999 Beef Cattle
16,500-54,999 Turkeys
150-499 Horses
750-2,499 Swine (>55 lbs.)

Small
Must be designated by MDE as a significant contributor of pollutants.
Less than 37,500 Chickens (dry waste)
Less than 25,000 Laying Hens (dry waste)
Less than 200 Dairy Cattle
Less than 300 Beef Cattle
Less than 16,500 Turkeys
Less than 150 Horses
Less than 750 Swine (>55 lbs.)

No permit needed unless designated by MDE or EPA as a CAFO.

What is a CAFO?

"Concentrated animal feeding operation" means a medium or large AFO that discharges or proposes to discharge to surface waters of the State; or a small AFO as designated by MDE or EPA. Two or more AFOs under common ownership are considered to be a single AFO for the purposes of determining the number of animals at an operation, if they adjoin each other or if they use a common area or system for the disposal of wastes. See below for Large CAFO, Medium CAFO and Small CAFO definitions.

CAFO Permit