



DNREC Virtual Public Hearing

Proposed Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) General Permit DE 0051233 (Docket # 2025-P-W-0023)

Welcome. Any visual content that is part of this hearing will appear in this window.

Computer Audio: Use the **audio connections menu** to turn audio on or off.

Telephone Audio: DIAL-in Number: 1-646-931-3860

Access code: 896 6792 4675

Public Comment during this hearing, required registration prior to 12pm today.

Written comments will be accepted using the DNREC Comment form, via email, or by USPS mail as noted on the hearing event page (de.gov/dnrechearings)

Hearing Purpose

This hearing is to provide the public the opportunity to comment on the renewal of the following CAFO general permit:

CAFO General Permit DE 0051233

(Large, Medium, & Designated Poultry CAFO – Facilities with Land Application of Manure)



What is an AFO?

Animal Feeding Operations

A facility where:

- Animals other than aquatic are stabled/confined and fed/maintained for a total of 45 days or more in a 12-month period.
- The animal confinement areas do not sustain crops, vegetation, forage growth, or post-harvest residues in the normal growing season.

2 or more AFOS under common ownership are considered a single AFO for the purposes of determining the number of animals in an operation.

Delaware AFOs



In Delaware, all AFOs with 8 animal units or more fall under the Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) Nutrient Management laws & regulations.



These operations are required to develop & maintain an Animal Waste Management Plan (AWMP) and submit to DDA. Operations land applying livestock waste are required to develop & submit a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP), which covers both the livestock and land.



An animal unit is equal to 1000lbs.

What is a CAFO?

Concentrated Animal
Feeding Operation

A facility qualifies as a
CAFO based on the
number of animals

Medium CAFO	Lg. CAFO	Animal Type
9,000 to 29,999	30,000	laying hens or broilers, if the AFO uses a liquid manure handling system,
37,500 to 124,999	125,000	chickens except laying hens (if other than a liquid manure handling system),
25,000 to 81,999	82,000	laying hens (if other than a liquid manure handling system,
300 to 999	1,000	cattle other than mature dairy cows or veal calves. Includes but is not limited to heifers, steers, bulls, and cow/calf pairs,
200 to 699	700	mature dairy cattle (whether milked or dry cows),
750 to 2,499	2,500	swine each weighing over 55 pounds,
150 to 499	500	horses,
3,000 to 9,999	10,000	sheep or lambs,
16,500 to 54,999	55,000	turkeys,

Delaware CAFO Program

- Regulatory program that issues National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits to CAFOs
- Overseen by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Implemented jointly by DNREC and DDA
 - DNREC is responsible for issuing permits & regulatory components of the program.
 - DDA is the primary point of contact for the regulated community and is responsible for conducting inspections, collecting documentation and reviewing AWMPs & NMPs.



CAFO General Permits

GP1: Large, Medium, & Designated Poultry CAFOs –Manure Generation Facilities Only (DE 5000N/11)

GP2: Large, Medium, & Designated Poultry CAFOs –Facilities with Land Application of Manure (DE 0051233)

GP3: Large, Medium, & Designated Non-Poultry & Diversified CAFOs –Manure Generation and Land Application Facilities (DE 0051250)





Effluent Limitations

Large CAFO Effluent Limitations:

- No discharge of manure, litter, or process wastewater pollutants to Waters of the State from the production area except:
 - In the case of a precipitation event exceeding a 25-year, 24-hour rainfall event
- AND**
- The production area is maintained and operated in accordance with the measures and records required by the CAFO regulations.

Medium & Designated CAFO Effluent Limitations:

- Operations must adhere to all Best Management Practices (BMPs) addressed in the AWMP and/or NMP concerning management activities of the manure, litter, or process wastewater in accordance with the State Technical Standards.

Plan Requirements

- Animal numbers & capacity
- Manure, litter, & process wastewater storage procedures
- Estimated manure generation
- Mortality management procedures
- Animal mortality disposal method
- Properly labeled field maps & aerial photographs
- Clean water diversion systems
- No livestock directly in contact with Waters of the State
- Chemical & contaminant disposal practices
- Buffers & other runoff BMPs
- Manure, litter, process wastewater, & soil testing protocols
- Manure, litter, & process wastewater application protocols
- Manure analysis results
- Records of implementation





Permitting Process

Applicants must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) form along with their AWMP/NMP. All complete applications are then public noticed to be covered under the CAFO NPDES General Permits. The public notice is advertised in two newspapers for one day and available on our website during a 30-day public comment period. Upon completion, without comment, of the 30-day period, applicants receive a letter granting permit coverage. The permit is good for five years, unless administratively extended.

If a comment is received and deemed meritorious of a hearing, DNREC will proceed with a public hearing, following the protocols listed on the DNREC Hearing Page (de.gov/dnrechearings).



Contact Information



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Thank you for joining us. We will accept comments on this matter through February 4, 2026.

Comments may be submitted in writing

via [DNREC Comment form](https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/public-hearings/comment-form/) - <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/public-hearings/comment-form/>

via [email](mailto:DNRECHearingComments@delaware.gov)- DNRECHearingComments@delaware.gov

or by USPS mail:

Lisa A. Vest, Hearing Officer

DNREC – Office of the Secretary

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The full verbatim transcript will be posted when it becomes available.

For more information, find the event page for this hearing on the DNREC Public Hearings page

dnrec.delaware.gov/public-hearings/