



Confined Animal Facilities Program Fact Sheet

Fiscal Year (FY) 19/20

Overview of the Confined Animal Facilities Program

The Central Valley is home to a variety of animal agricultural operations. Confined Animal Facilities (CAFs) are where livestock are fed in confinement for a significant part of the year, as opposed to grazing, where livestock mostly eat forage on rangeland or pasture.

There are about 1,200 dairies in the Central Valley, most regulated by a General Order with requirements for corrals, ponds, and land application areas. Dairies range from fewer than 100 cows to more than 10,000 cows. The average size is about 1,200 cows. There are about 300 regulated commercial feedlots and slightly more than 200 commercial poultry facilities. There are also a small number of goat and swine facilities in the Central Valley Region.

Program Goals

The goal of the Confined Animal Facilities Program is to preserve the human right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water, while also preserving the benefits of a healthy and sustainable livestock industry. We prevent impairment of surface water and groundwater by regulating discharges from confined animal facilities—discharges include manure, wastewater, and storm water runoff that may contain waste constituents. Primary constituents of concern are salts, particularly sodium, chloride, and nitrate.

Confined animal facility permits include requirements for a Waste Management Plan to ensure the facility has the capacity to control its waste, including during storm or flood events, without discharging waste or stormwater runoff to surface water and without overloading cropland. The permits also include a requirement for a Nutrient Management Plan to ensure that manure and wastewater are applied to cropland in the right form (liquid manure, solid manure, or commercial fertilizer), in the right amount (depending on crop and soil conditions), at the right time (depending on the crop's growth stage), and in the right place (to ensure even distribution) to minimize leaching of nutrients to groundwater.

Resources

There are 12 staff working in the program, supplemented by 3 or 4 other staff with a small percentage of their time to help with the program. Staff are equally divided between the Rancho Cordova and Fresno offices. Staff from the Rancho Cordova office also oversee confined animal facilities in the area normally covered by the Redding office.

FY 18/19 Accomplishments

- Conducted more than 300 inspections of dairies, poultry facilities, and feedlots
- Revised the General Order regulating poultry facilities.
- Processed permit applications for approximately 300 bovine feedlots. Approximately 100 of them were merged with existing dairy operations. The remainder were issued coverage under the Bovine Feedlot General Order.
- Developed compliance guidelines for facilities enrolled under the Poultry and Bovine Feedlot General Orders.
- Pursued formal enforcement for eight cases of unpermitted discharges of waste from a dairy or feedlot. Also successfully pursued informal enforcement for failures to submit annual reports and for failures to either conduct groundwater monitoring or maintain enrollment in the Dairy Representative Monitoring Program.
- Participated in the California Department of Food and Agriculture's grant program for dairy digesters and other manure management practices that reduce short-lived climate pollutants and to streamline the permitting of manure digesters and co-digesters. Participated in the planning and permitting of several dairy digester projects.

Priority Projects FY 19/20

- Conduct at least 275 confined animal facility inspections.
- Incorporate changes to the Dairy General Order and accompanying Monitoring and Reporting Program as a result of the Dairy Representative Monitoring Program's results and recommendations and to incorporate the CV-SALTS Salt and Nitrate Control Program. Other proposed changes are to make the Dairy General Order consistent with composting and Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program requirements.
- Maximize compliance with nutrient management planning and mortality management requirements through inspections and enforcement.
- Continue to participate in the California Department of Food and Agriculture's grant program to promote digesters and alternative manure management technologies.