

B. Non-Regulatory Tools, Guidance, and Support Programs



South Dakota

Environmental Training Program for Livestock Producers

South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) requires CAFO operators to attend an approved environmental training course on the proper operation and maintenance of a manure management system and proper natural resource management prior to receiving coverage under the state's NPDES CAFO General Permit, known as the General Water Pollution Control Permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations in South Dakota ([SDG-0100000](#)). DENR will provide a list of approved environmental training programs to producers upon request.

South Dakota State University (SDSU), SDSU Extension, DENR, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offer a one-day training session for CAFO operators, that is currently the only approved environmental training program, approximately two times per year. This training program costs \$50 and fulfills the environmental and manure management training requirement needed for NPDES CAFO General Permit coverage. Attendees can also earn Certified Crop Advisor credits ([DENR n.d](#)).

South Dakota DENR General Water Pollution Control Permit for CAFOs (SDG-0100000)

1.2.2. Permit Coverage

1.2.2.5. Natural Resource Management Training Required. A producer wanting coverage under this permit must first submit verification that the producer has attended an approved environmental training course on proper operation and maintenance of a manure management system and proper natural resource management (item x.-page 26). If a producer was permitted under the previous general permit and has already submitted verification that this training was attended does not have to submit additional verification before obtaining permit coverage. However, because of the new record keeping and reporting requirements and future changes to the nutrient management plan required by this permit, it is recommended that all owners and operators attend the training again.

1.4.4. Nutrient Management Requirements

1.4.4.2. Best Management Practices for Land Application of Manure

1.4.4.2.x. Training and education. The producer shall participate in an approved environmental training program on proper operation and maintenance of a manure management system and proper natural resource management. Anyone wishing to provide an approved environmental training program must submit an outline of the training program to the Secretary for approval. Upon request, the Secretary will provide producers with a listing of approved environmental training programs. The producer shall submit training verification prior to receiving a Certificate of Compliance and coverage under this permit.

Programmatic Framework

The South Dakota DENR's authority to issue surface water discharge permits to CAFOs comes from South Dakota Codified Laws § [34A-2-36.2](#) and § [34A-2-36](#) and the Administrative Rules of South Dakota, [Article 74:52](#) (Surface Water Discharge Permits) chapters 74:52:01 through 74:52:11.

South Dakota defines a CAFO as any facility that meets the federal size thresholds for a large CAFO; an AFO that meets the federal size thresholds for a medium CAFO and discharges pollutants to waters of the state; or a small AFO designated as a CAFO.

The NPDES CAFO General Permit expired on October 19, 2008, but has been administratively extended.

Implementation

The environmental training requirement was included in South Dakota's first NPDES CAFO General Permit, issued in 1997, and will be continued in the permit that replaces the 2003 NPDES CAFO General Permit. One proposed change in South Dakota's proposed NPDES CAFO General Permit is the requirement that all producers must have attended training within the past three years prior to obtaining coverage under the new permit. The administratively extended NPDES CAFO General Permit allows operators to submit a certificate of environmental training regardless of the date the training was completed. A second change in the proposed NPDES CAFO General Permit will require out-of-state CAFOs that land apply manure in South Dakota to obtain NPDES permit coverage for their manure application in South Dakota. This change will require out-of-state CAFO operators to attend DENR's environmental training course, the current permit only recommends training.

Training programs are offered two times per year in the town of Huron, SD. The most recent training program was offered on March 3, 2016. Speakers discussed the following topics:

- Water quality;
- Livestock nutrition options for reducing nitrogen and phosphorus content of manure;
- An overview of the South Dakota DENR Feedlot Permit Program;
- Land application management of manure nitrogen and phosphorus;
- Nutrient management planning worksheets;
- Conservation practices to improve sustainability;
- Air quality and odor ([SDSU iGrow 2016](#)), and;
- Winter application requirements and management practices.

Results

Since July 2008, the environmental training program has included an evaluation survey for participants to fill out upon completion of the training. The results from this survey are used to consider modifications to the training program. According to DENR, evaluation of survey results indicate an average overall satisfaction with the program as 75 percent or higher, and attendees acknowledge that they have a better understanding of the NPDES CAFO General Permit and the permit requirements after the training than they had prior to the training.

DENR has encountered some cases of noncompliance where it is discovered that the facility owner attended the training, and thus satisfying the training requirement; however, the manager of daily operations at the facility did not. In these cases, DENR makes a recommendation that the manager also attend the training to improve the facility's compliance with the permit.

According to DENR, since the first training was held in March 1998, over 1,500 people have completed the training program. Participants include producers, county government officials, crop consultants, engineers, and a variety of personnel from other agencies who wish to learn more about CAFOs.

References

DENR (South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources). n.d. *The Most Frequently Asked Questions About the State General Permit Process for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations*. <http://denr.sd.gov/des/fp/cafofaq.aspx#GeneralPermitDescription>. Accessed March 22, 2016.

SDSU iGrow (South Dakota State University iGrow). 2016. *Recent News: CAFO Training in Huron March 3*. <http://igrow.org/news/cafo-training-held-in-huron-march-3/>. Accessed March 24, 2016.
