



# ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP IN ANIMAL AGRICULTURE



ESAA-0001

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## Educational Opportunities for AFO/CAFO Owners and Operators

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Protecting the environment has long been a goal of Alabama agriculture. Unfortunately, animal feeding operations (AFO) are the focus of national environmental attention. Every AFO owner/operator should do everything possible to insure they are doing what is needed for environmental assurance. The first thing is learning how to operate farms in an environmentally friendly manner. This is the purpose of the AFO/CAFO Continuing Education program. It involves working with existing systems, learning about new systems and understanding what effects these farms can have on the local environment.

There are several ways to receive training on the operation of an AFO and receive credit (CEUs) as required by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). One-on-one training is the least used and most effective form available for farmers. Farm visits conducted by Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) professionals and National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) professionals related to the operation of a manure management program are potentially the most valuable training, as issues specific to a farm can be addressed. Annual inspections conducted by qualified, credentialed professionals (QCPs) are also a valuable source of information as long as the owner/operator is present during the inspection. QCP inspections also address farm-specific issues. For these one-on-one training sessions, written documentation of the visit is required to receive CAFO CEUs. This documentation should include the date, time spent, name and employer of the professional, and issues covered during the visit or inspection and it must be signed by the ACES/NRCS professional or QCP.

Local, county, regional and state-wide meetings are also available for training and credit. Any program meeting the ADEM requirements found at the end of this factsheet can be approved for credit. However, getting regular training on issues you face on your farm is most important! Training sessions are conducted by local and state producer groups, commodity organizations and ACES. Targeted county or regional meetings should provide the best information in a group format. Information can be tailored to specific circumstances. Any presentation that will help protect the quality of air and water, reduce manure production or help participants understand issues related to environmental quality can be approved for CAFO CEUs.

For more information, go to [www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu) , [www.broilerlitter.com](http://www.broilerlitter.com), or e-mail [cafoceu@auburn.edu](mailto:cafoceu@auburn.edu).

ALABAMA A&M AND AUBURN UNIVERSITIES, AND TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY, COUNTY GOVERNING BODIES AND  
USDA COOPERATING

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**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION - WATER QUALITY PROGRAM  
CHAPTER 335-6-7  
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)  
Best Management Practices, Registration Requirements, Technical  
Standards And Guidelines, Construction And Operation Requirements,  
Waste/Wastewater And Waste Product Treatment, Storage, Handling,  
Transport, And Disposal/Land Application, Nutrient Management, And  
Animal Mortality Management Requirements For Owners And Operators Of  
Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs) And Concentrated Animal Feeding  
Operations (CAFOs)**

**335-6-7-.18 Continuing Educational And Training Requirements**

(1) Except as provided in Rule 335-6-7-.18(3), commencing effective April 1, 1999, all managing owners/operators and onsite supervisors of proposed or existing registered facilities and proposed or existing CAFO operations must obtain certification of satisfactory completion of formal education or training in the areas of general BMPs, comprehensive waste/wastewater management, land application, nutrient budgeting, dead animal disposal, and other appropriate areas. Proof of satisfactory completion of up to sixteen (16) hours of approved group or individualized initial training and education must be submitted with the NOR or no later than one (1) year after the effective date of the initial Registration unless extended by the Director or his designee for cause. The registrant will be informed of, and the Department shall approve initial training requirements including, but not limited to, appropriate curricula, course content, course length, any participant testing, evaluation of the effectiveness/applicability of the training, and total hours of training required.

(2) Except as provided in Rule 335-6-7-.18(3), commencing effective April 1, 1999, all managing owners/operators and onsite supervisors of all registered facilities and unregistered existing CAFO operations, which have been in operation for no less than eighteen (18) months, must obtain certification of satisfactory completion of annual refresher training in the areas of general BMPs, comprehensive waste/wastewater management, land application, nutrient budgeting, dead animal disposal, and other appropriate areas as described in and in addition to the educational requirements required in Rule 335-6-7-.18(1). Proof of satisfactory completion of up to eight (8) hours of annual approved group or individualized refresher training and education must be submitted with each annual re-registration NOR unless extended by the Director or his designee for cause. The registrant will be informed of, and the Department shall approve refresher-training requirements including, but not limited to, appropriate curricula, course content, course length, any participant testing, evaluation of the effectiveness/applicability of the training, and total hours of training required.

(3) An owner/operator has the option to submit the additive "Greenfield" fee with the initial registration and each annual registration as provided in Chapter 335-1-6 – Fee Schedule D, Water Permits/Registration, CAFO so that the Department can perform a comprehensive facility evaluation prior to approval of the registration request, in lieu of

submitting the continuing education certification(s) required in Rule 335-6-7-.18 (1) and (2).

(4) Failure to obtain and submit certification of the prerequisite and annual training and education, or pay the additive Greenfield fee as provided in Rule 335-6-7-.18(3) shall be deemed a violation of this Chapter.

(5) Where employees are responsible for activities which relate to Rule compliance, those employees must be regularly trained or informed of any information pertinent to the proper operation and maintenance of the facility and waste/wastewater disposal. Training shall address such topics as proper land application of wastes, nutrient budgeting, proper operation and maintenance of the facility, good housekeeping and chemical/fuel management practices, proper dead or diseased animal disposal, proper waste product disposal, necessary record keeping requirements, emergency response in case of power failure, system failure, or unpermitted discharge, spill response and clean-up, and other topics required by the Director or his designee. The registrant is responsible for determining the appropriate training frequency for different levels of personnel expertise and the pollution prevention plan shall identify periodic dates for such training.

335-6-7-.18

**Author:** Richard Hulcher.

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Alabama 1975, §§ 22-22-1 to 22-22-14 and §§ 22-22A-1 to 22-22A-16 et seq., as amended.

**History:** March 31, 1999;

**Amended:** December 1, 2000

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