

Water

Animal Waste STATE Permits

What Activities Require This Permit? Certificate of coverage (COC) under state general permits and individual permits is required for the construction and operation of animal waste management systems for facilities with 250 or more swine, 100 or more confined cattle, 75 or more horses, 1,000 or more sheep or 30,000 or more confined poultry with a liquid animal waste management system.

What Is The Purpose of This Permit? To protect waters of the state through compliance with state and federal water quality laws regarding direct discharges of wastewater.

Who Issues This Permit? N.C. Division of Water Resources, Animal Feeding Operations Program.

How Much Will This Permit Cost? A full list of current permitting fees can be found at the following link:
<https://www.deq.nc.gov/accessdeq/permit-fees-2025-updates>

What Are My Payment Options for Permit Application Fees?

Payments can be made either by check/money order OR by electronic payment (Credit/Debit Card and eCheck). To pay electronically, visit: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/epayment>.

If Paying by Check, Who do I Make the Check Payable to and Where Do I Send the Check?

If payment is by check/money order, please remit payment to:
NCDEQ - Division of Water Resources
Attn: Animal/Discharge/Non-Discharge Billing
1617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1617

Please Contact the Annual Fee Administering and Compliance Coordinator at 919-807-6316.

Where Can I Get The Application For This Permit? <http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-permits/wastewater-branch/animal-feeding-operation-permits/applications>

How Long Will It Take To Review My Application? Within 90 days from the receipt of a complete application package.

Where Do I Submit My Application? N.C. Division of Water Resources, Animal Feeding Operations Program, 1636 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1636.

How Long Is My Permit or License or Certificate Valid? Up to five years.

Notes/Comments: The animal feeding operations that discharge from the production area or land application area must have coverage under an Animal Waste NPDES Permit. Facilities exceeding the above threshold animal numbers operating as non-discharge systems require coverage under an Animal Waste State Permit.

Legal Authority/Statute Reference:

Section 402 of the Clean Water Act; North Carolina General Statutes (NCGS) 143-215 et seq.

Link: <http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-quality-regional-operations/afo>

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Statewide Contact Information:

NC Division of Water Resources
Animal Feeding Operations Branch
1636 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1636
Telephone: (919) 707-9129