

Regulatory Definitions of Large CAFOs, Medium CAFOs, and Small CAFOs

A **Large CAFO** confines at least the number of animals described in the table below.

A **Medium CAFO** falls within the size range in the table below and either:

- has a manmade ditch or pipe that carries manure or wastewater to surface water; **or**
- the animals come into contact with surface water that passes through the area where they're confined.

If an operation is found to be a significant contributor of pollutants, the permitting authority may designate a medium-sized facility as a CAFO.

A **Small CAFO** confines fewer than the number of animals listed in the table **and** has been designated as a CAFO by the permitting authority as a significant contributor of pollutants.

Animal Sector	Size Thresholds (number of animals)		
	Large CAFOs	Medium CAFOs ¹	Small CAFOs ²
cattle or cow/calf pairs	1,000 or more	300 – 999	less than 300
mature dairy cattle	700 or more	200 – 699	less than 200
veal calves	1,000 or more	300 – 999	less than 300
swine (weighing over 55 pounds)	2,500 or more	750 – 2,499	less than 750
swine (weighing less than 55 pounds)	10,000 or more	3,000 – 9,999	less than 3,000
horses	500 or more	150 – 499	less than 150
sheep or lambs	10,000 or more	3,000 – 9,999	less than 3,000
turkeys	55,000 or more	16,500 – 54,999	less than 16,500
laying hens or broilers (liquid manure handling systems)	30,000 or more	9,000 – 29,999	less than 9,000
chickens other than laying hens (other than a liquid manure handling system)	125,000 or more	37,500 – 124,999	less than 37,500
laying hens (other than a liquid manure handling system)	82,000 or more	25,000 – 81,999	less than 25,000
ducks (other than a liquid manure handling system)	30,000 or more	10,000 – 29,999	less than 10,000
ducks (liquid manure handling systems)	5,000 or more	1,500 – 4,999	less than 1,500

¹ Must also meet one of two “method of discharge” criteria to be defined as a CAFO or may be designated.

² Never a CAFO by regulatory definition, but may be designated as a CAFO on a case-by-case basis.

* **Source:** US EPA: http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/sector_table.pdf