

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.

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

Animal Sector	Size Threshold (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 liquid manure handling systems)	125,000 or more	37,500–124,999	less than 37,500
laying hens (other than liquid manure handling systems)	82,000 or more	25,000–81,999	less than 25,000
ducks (other than liquid manure handling systems)	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.