

Key Questions

Who does this legislation apply to?

- All livestock operations, including CFOs, cow/calf operations, as well as custom manure applicators and others who handle or apply manure.
- A variety of livestock categories including beef, dairy, swine, poultry, horses, sheep, goats, bison, cervid (deer/elk), and wild boar.
- The owner or operator of a seasonal feeding and bedding site.
- The owner or operator of a manure collection area or a manure storage facility.

What do livestock operators need permits for?

Prior to construction or expansion of a CFO, manure storage facility or manure collection area, livestock operators should contact an NRCB Approval Officer or an ARD CFO Extension Specialist to find out if a permit is required. If a permit is required, construction or expansion of a CFO cannot begin until the permit has been issued. The permit requirements for a CFO are based on livestock category and type; and number of animals.

How does the NRCB handle complaints?

Complaints or concerns regarding a livestock operation can be made by phoning the NRCB's toll-free Response Line at 1.866.383.6722. The call centre will forward the complaint to an NRCB Inspector for follow-up. The inspector will investigate the complaint and determine whether the operation is in compliance with AOPA and its regulations and permit conditions.

If the operation is found to be in non-compliance, the NRCB Inspector will take appropriate enforcement action based on the environmental and/or nuisance impact of the situation and the operator's willingness to address it. If voluntary compliance cannot be obtained from the operator, the NRCB has the authority to take escalating steps to achieve compliance including written directives, enforcement orders, court orders and finally, prosecution.

For more information

(Dial 310-0000 to be connected toll-free)

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD)

Website: www.agriculture.alberta.ca
Publications: 1.800.292.5697
Ag-Info Centre: 310-FARM (3276)

CFO EXTENSION SPECIALIST OFFICES

Lethbridge: 403.381.5885
Red Deer: 403.755.1475
Morinville: 780.939.1218

For a copy of AOPA, contact the Queen's printer at 780.427.4952 or www.gov.ab.ca/qp

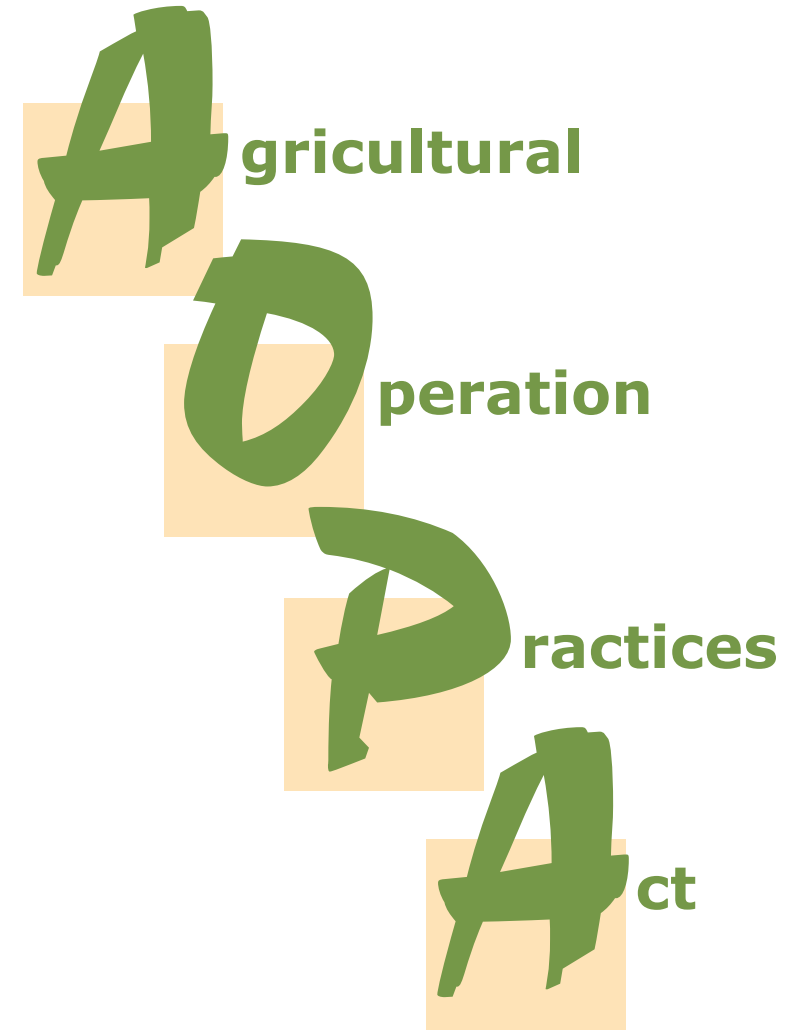
Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB)

Website: www.nrcb.gov.ab.ca

REGIONAL OFFICES

Lethbridge: 403.381.5166
Red Deer: 403.340.5241
Morinville: 780.939.1212
Fairview: 780.835.7111

For concerns about CFOs or the storage and handling of manure on any operation, call the NRCB's 24 hour toll-free Response Line: 1.866.383.6722



Environmental Standards for Alberta's Livestock Industry



An introduction to the legislation for confined feeding operations (CFOs) and manure management requirements for all agricultural operations in Alberta.

Province-wide Standards

“The purpose of the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* (AOPA) is to ensure that the Province’s livestock industry can grow to meet the opportunities presented by local and world markets in an environmentally sustainable manner.”

In January 2002, under AOPA, the Province assumed responsibility for issuing permits for confined feeding operations (CFOs) and for setting and enforcing manure management standards. AOPA was amended in June 2004, and the regulations were updated in October 2006 to clarify the original intent of the legislation.

AOPA and its three associated regulations establish province-wide permitting requirements and standards for all agricultural operations that handle manure.

What is a Confined Feeding Operation?

A CFO is defined as fenced or enclosed land or buildings where livestock are confined for the purposes of growing, sustaining, finishing or breeding by means other than grazing, and any other building or structure directly related to that purpose. CFOs do not include residences, grazing livestock operations, livestock seasonal feeding and bedding sites, equestrian stables, auction markets, race tracks or exhibition grounds.



Key Contacts

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) is the provincial ministry responsible for developing and updating AOPA to ensure that it meets the needs of the livestock industry and the public. ARD also provides applied research and extension services to the livestock industry.

CFO Extension Services:

- Provide information and tools to support the permit process for new and expanding CFOs.
- Provide clients information on the AOPA regulatory requirements.

The Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) is an agency of the Government of Alberta. It is responsible for regulatory functions under AOPA, processing applications and ensuring compliance with the Act and Regulations. The NRCB functions as an appeal body under AOPA.

Free Publications

The following fact sheets are available from ARD and the NRCB offices.

- 2008 AOPA Reference Guide (Agdex 096-1)
- Permits and Regulations for Existing Operations (Agdex 096-2)
- Manure Management Record Keeping Regulations (Agdex 096-3)
- Wintering Sites and Livestock Corrals (Agdex 096-4)
- Manure Spreading Regulations (Agdex 096-5)
- Manure Management Regulations for Cow/calf Producers (Agdex 096-6)
- *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* (AOPA) Manure Characteristics and Land Base Code
- *Municipalities and the Agricultural Operation Practices Act*

Key Points

Manure. Manure, compost and composting material have the same requirements under AOPA as long as they do not contain dead animals or third party feedstock. Manure includes livestock excreta, associated feed losses, bedding, litter, soil and washwater, but does not include manure to which the *Fertilizer Act* applies.

Manure application. All agricultural operations must follow the manure or compost application and setback distances to protect surface water and groundwater resources and reduce nuisance impact on neighbours.

Permits. A permit must be obtained from the NRCB prior to construction or expansion of a CFO or a manure storage facility.

Existing CFOs. All CFOs or manure storage facilities that existed before January 1, 2002 are considered to have a permit under AOPA. Terms and conditions of permits issued by a municipality or health authority continue to apply and are enforced by the NRCB. The type of permit an operation is considered to have is based on the type of livestock and manure storage and the existing CFO’s capacity as of January 1, 2002.

Wintering sites. Seasonal feeding and bedding sites where livestock are fed and sheltered do not require permits, but must be sited, designed or operated to protect water bodies from manure runoff.

Manure storage. The regulations specify the proper siting and construction of solid and liquid storage facilities and collection areas.

Record keeping. CFOs, custom applicators, cow/calf producers and others who apply, transfer, or receive more than 500 tonnes of manure or compost per year must keep records and perform soil tests.