



What to Expect During Inspections of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and Maryland Animal Feeding Operations (MAFOs)

What You Need to Know

November 2021

The following outlines the process that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) uses to conduct compliance inspections of CAFOs and MAFOs under the General Discharge Permit for Animal Feeding Operations (GD Permit). This information is provided to give operators a sense of what to expect during an inspection and so that operators may conduct periodic self-checks for compliance with the GD Permit in between MDE inspections.

Scheduling the Inspection

1. An MDE Inspector will contact you to schedule the permit inspection. In most cases, the permittee or operator will be given a minimum 48 hours' notice prior to the inspection.
2. The MDE Inspector will review with the permittee or operator of the facility bio-security measures prior to entering the premises.

Arrival at Inspection Site

The MDE Inspector will:

3. Arrive on the site at the scheduled time.
4. Spray disinfectant on their vehicle tires and wheel wells and put on disposable boots or other required protective wear as directed by the facility.
5. Sign the visitor log if required.
6. Meet with the permittee and or operator.
7. Present proper state credentials, explain the reason for the inspection, and describe what to expect during the inspection.

Records Review

8. The MDE inspector will conduct a records review. The permittee must retain records for 5 consecutive years as required under the provisions of the GD Permit.

In order to allow for an efficient inspection please ensure that your records are easily accessible and ready for inspection. The records that you should have on hand include:

- a.) Registration certificate and copy of GD Permit;
- b.) Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) or Nutrient Management Plan and Conservation Plan;
- c.) Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs) for the past 5 years;

- d.) Manure analyses for the past 5 years;
- e.) Soil Samples, at least once every 3 years for land application operators;
- f.) Inspection Records/Logs, including the Nutrient Land Application Log, Weekly Storage and Containment Structure Inspections Log, Weekly Wastewater Facilities Inspections Log, Documentation for all Manure, Litter, and Wastewater Storage Structures, Manure Application Equipment Inspection Records and Calibration Records, Manure, Litter and Process Wastewater Transfer Records, and Water Line Inspection Log. All the required inspection forms are located on MDE's AFO website:
<http://mde.state.md.us/programs/Land/RecyclingandOperationsprogram/AFO/Page/CAFO.aspx>

Production Area Inspection

- 9. The MDE inspector will conduct the site inspection and walk around the facility. The inspector will walk around the entire production area and check the following:
 - a. Animal confinement and heavy use area (HUA);
 - b. Manure and process wastewater storage areas;
 - c. Animal mortality area;
 - d. Feed storage area;
 - e. Chemical storage area;
 - f. Stormwater routing and treatment area; and
 - g. Land application areas of manure and process wastewater, if applicable.
- 10. During the walk around inspection, the inspector will look for the following:
 - a. Areas containing waste or process wastewater that may be in a position likely to discharge or an ongoing discharge that is not being contained;
 - b. Any leaks or seeps of manure or process wastewater in or around the production area that are not being properly contained;
 - c. Animal mortalities not properly handled or managed as required;
 - d. Lack of housekeeping in and around the production area;
 - e. Failure to maintain Best Management Practices such as manure storage structures, dead bird composters, HUA pads, haul roads, grassed waterways, diversions, stormwater routing structures or any other required BMPs designed for the facility.
- 11. Sampling may be required on specific sites to determine a discharge of pollutants.
- 12. The MDE inspector may need to take photographs to document violations or discharges.

Inspection Wrap-Up

- 13. The MDE inspector will conduct a final wrap-up discussion prior to exiting the site outlining their findings and provide the facility with a detailed written Field Inspection Report highlighting any corrective actions if applicable.