

Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs)

Proposed Rule: Farm Size Factsheet



***AAP Water Quality Rules
Currently in Effect until RAP
Adoption**

www.Agriculture.Vermont.gov/water-quality/regulations/rap

Updated May 16, 2016



What Farm Size are You?



Regulatory Authority

Municipal zoning may apply authority to Non-RAP Operations (NROs).

Can be required to follow the RAPs if adverse water quality impact exists

Agency of Agriculture, Food & Market (VAAFM) regulates RAP Small Farm Operations (SFOs).

MUST follow RAPs.

VAAFM regulates Certified SFOs.

Farm needs to ANNUALLY Self-Certify

-AND -

MUST follow RAPs.

VAAFM regulates MFOs.

Farm needs a MFO General Permit with Annual Report

- AND -

MUST follow permit and RAPs.

VAAFM regulates LFOs.

Farm needs a LFO Individual Permit with Annual Reporting

- AND -

MUST follow permit and RAPs.

Size of Farm

Non-RAP Operations (NRO)



RAP Small Farm Operations (SFO)



Certified Small Farm Operations (CSFO)



Permitted Medium Farm Operations (MFO)



Permitted Large Farm Operations (LFO)



Requirements Needed to Meet Farm Type

Operates LESS THAN 4 acres used for farming AND has animal numbers below RAP Farm Threshold (Example: 1-4 cows; 1-3 horses; 1-99 layers)
- OR -
Makes LESS THAN \$2,000 Annual Gross Income AND did NOT file a 1040F once in the last 2 years.

Operates 4+ acres used for farming
- OR -
Regardless of acreage, any farming operation that makes more than \$2,000 Annual Gross Income or has filed a 1040F once in the last 2 years.
- OR -

Has an Approved Business Management Plan

Operates 10+ acres used for farming
- AND one of the following categories: -
Livestock Farm: Example: 50 - 199 Dairy Cows or 75 - 300 Beef Cows or 40 - 150 Horses or 90,000# Liveweight
- OR -
Annual Crop Farm: 50+ acres used for growing Annual Crops (Ex: Feed Corn; Sweet Corn; Pumpkins; Soybeans)
- OR -
Vegetable Farm: 50+ acres used for growing Vegetables

Meets Animal Numbers for MFO
Example: 200-699 Dairy Cows or 300-999 Beef Cows or 150-499 Horses or 3,000 to 9,999 Sheep

Meets Animal Numbers for LFO
Example: 700+ Dairy Cows or 1000+ Beef Cows or 500+ Horses or 10,000+ Sheep

To learn more about the Proposed Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs), visit: www.Agriculture.Vermont.gov/water-quality/regulations/rap



Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs)

Proposed Rule: Training & Certification



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What Trainings and Certifications Will You Need?

SMALL FARM CERTIFICATION

FARM OPERATOR TRAINING

CUSTOM APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION

Who Needs It?	Small Farm Certification	Farm Operator Training	Custom Applicator Certification
What information will be provided?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand and comply with all Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs). A change in ownership or lease of a Certified Small Farm Operation requires notification within 30 days to the Secretary. Options for meeting training requirements of the Farm Operator Training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulatory requirements of farm operations and financial assistance available to meet requirements. Prevention of discharges. Methods and techniques used to minimize nutrient runoff. Management of stormwater runoff. Knowledge of weather & soil conditions that increase risk of runoff. Understand the value of following Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will learn and must demonstrate knowledge of Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs), applicable MFO or LFO permit requirements, and NRCS 590 Nutrient Management and nutrient application standards. Will learn and must demonstrate competency in methods and techniques to ensure appropriate nutrient application in compliance with environmental standards. Be able to train all employees and seasonal workers in methods and techniques to meet RAPs and NMP nutrient application standards.
How Often?	<p>Shall certify annually and shall be inspected within 7 years of initial certification.</p>	<p>Shall obtain 4 hours of approved training every 5 years. Get credit for attending existing field days</p>	<p>Certification shall be valid for 5 years. Shall obtain 8 hours of approved training in every 5 year period.</p>

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