



Fact Sheet

How to Report Complaints about Confined Animal Feeding Operations

Overview

Ohio's current regulatory program for livestock operations involves several state and local agencies. The government agency responsible for regulatory oversight and pollution response may depend on the size of the livestock operation, type of pollution incident, and/or the type of permit it holds, if any. This fact sheet briefly describes each agency's regulatory responsibility and lists contact information. To ensure prompt and thorough investigations into complaints, citizens are encouraged to both call and write the appropriate agency.

Ohio Department of Agriculture

Livestock Environmental Permitting Program

Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) issues state Permit to Install, Permit to Operate and Review Compliance Certificates to "large" livestock facilities with more 1000 beef cattle, 700 dairy cows, 2500 hogs , 82,000 laying hens or 125,000 broiler chickens.

To make a complaint about a facility regulated by ODA, call ODA Livestock Environmental Permitting Program at (614) 387-0470 or toll-free (800) 282-1955; Fax (614) 728-6335; lepp@odant.agri.state.oh.us; 8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068; or Kevin Elder, elder@odant.agri.state.oh.us.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA)

Division of Surface Water

Ohio EPA issues federal Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for livestock operations which discharge to waters of the state, or have previously discharged pollutants (can be any size operation).

To report manure spills or other pollution discharges to waters of the state, call Ohio EPA emergency spill hotline at (800) 282-9378. Ohio EPA mailing address: P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, OH 43216-1049 or contact Jon Bernstein, (614) 728-2397, jon.bernstein@epa.state.oh.us.

Ohio EPA also requires NPDES stormwater permits at facilities where construction will disturb more than one acre of land—regardless of number of animal units at the operation. To make stormwater complaints contact Harry Kallipolitis, 614-728-3844, harry.kallipolitis@epa.state.oh.us.

To make nuisance or other complaints on facilities regulated by Ohio EPA, call (800) 426-6515.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) - Division 5

U.S. EPA authorizes states to issue air and water pollution permits to CAFOs, but retains authority to collect information from, investigate, evaluate and enforce compliance from CAFOs. The Ohio Environmental Council recommends that citizens copy USEPA on formal pollution complaints.

Contact: Steve Jann, U.S.EPA Region 5, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604-3590; Jann.Stephen@epamail.epa.gov. You can also use the online citizen complaint form at www.epa.gov/region5/enforcement/ecitcomp.htm.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

Division of Wildlife

ODNR's Division of Wildlife is responsible for investigating all fish kills and impacts to other wildlife. The Division of Wildlife has the authority to charge persons for pollution incidents whether or not the incident results in the loss of wildlife and to recoup the investigation costs.

If there was a fish kill as a result of any spill—regardless of size or source of pollution—immediately call your local wildlife officer (check local listings) or find info at: www.dnr.state.oh.us/wildlife/1NewSite/Contact/officers.htm. ODNR mailing address: 1840 Belcher Dr. Columbus, Ohio 43224-1329; (614) 265-6300.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

Division of Soil and Water Conservation

ODNR's Division of Soil and Water Conservation (DSWC) enforces Ohio's agriculture pollution abatement laws for small and medium livestock facilities and provides support to Ohio's county soil and water conservation districts. This Division should be copied on all written complaints made to local soil and water conservation districts (see below).

Contact information: (614) 262-2064; dswc@dnr.state.oh.us; 4383 Fountain Square Drive, Building B-3, Columbus, OH 4322; contact Martin Joyce, (614) 265-6684 or martin.joyce@dnr.state.oh.us.

For more information contact:

Ohio Environmental Council
1207 Grandview Ave, Suite 201
Columbus, Ohio 43212

tel (614) 487-7507
fax (614) 487-7510
e-mail OEC@theOEC.org
web www.theOEC.org



County Soil & Water Conservation Districts

County Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) provide technical assistance to local farmers and administer cost share funds for conservation practices. County SWCDs have little enforcement authority, and rely upon their affiliation with ODNR Division of Soil and Water Conservation to enforce agriculture pollution abatement rules and laws. In addition to making complaints to state agencies (ODA and/or OEPA), citizens are recommended to register complaints or report suspected pollution problem from agricultural operations with the county SWCD office.

To find your local SWCD office, check the phone book or visit www.dnr.state.oh.us/soilandwater/swcds.htm.

Ohio Department of Health

Environmental Health Division

Ohio Department of Health has limited regulatory authority, but can respond to and investigate fly nuisances caused by factory farms. (Ohio Department of Agriculture has actual regulatory authority to enforce insect and rodent control plans—but only as part of state operating permits they issue.)

To make a complaint about a fly infestation suspected to be caused by a factory farm, contact Ohio Department of Health at (614) 752-8102; sgolden@gw.odh.state.oh.us; 246 North High Street; Columbus, OH 43216-0118.

Local Boards of Health

Local boards of health have the authority to abate nuisances such as fly infestations, mosquito problems around manure lagoons. Recent changes in Ohio law stripped the authority of local boards of health to enact health ordinance regulations prior to construction of factory farms.

For the Ohio Local Health District Directory, check your phone book or visit www.odh.state.oh.us/Directory/LHD/LHD_LIST.HTM.

Other Ways to Report Complaints

Ohio Environmental Council

The Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) is a statewide non-profit, non-governmental environmental advocacy organization. The OEC serves as a networking organization for more than 100 local environmental, conservation and citizen-based groups. (614) 487-7506; OEC@theOEC.org; 1207 Grandview Ave., Suite 201, Columbus, OH 43212-3449.

Local Media

Watershed watchdogs may also consider alerting local newspapers, television and radio stations of manure spills and fish kills. Check your phone book for local listings, or contact the Ohio Environmental Council for a complete list.