



## **HB 2061: CAFO fee increase**

**Contact** Lisa Hanson, Deputy Director  
503-986-4632/lhanson@oda.state.or.us  
Stephanie Page, Program Director  
503-986-4727/spage@oda.state.or.us

### **Description**

- Raises statutory caps for application fees and annual permit fees for Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO).
- Allows ODA to adopt rules that create definitions for different sizes of CAFOs and establish fee schedules based on these definitions.

### **Background**

In Oregon, facilities that meet the state or federal CAFO definition must obtain and maintain a CAFO permit with ODA. Facilities may be registered to the program's general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit or Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) permit, or in certain circumstances, obtain an individual NPDES or WPCF permit. All applicants for a new CAFO permit must pay an application fee, and all existing facilities must pay an annual permit renewal fee.

The current fee structure for facilities registered to the program's general permits was established in statute and rule in 2011. At the time this schedule was adopted, ODA and industry agreed that the fees would be established in order to fully pay for one inspector position in the CAFO program.

Today, the fees received under the program's current structure do not fully support one inspector position. The biennial cost of an average NRS3 inspector position is approximately \$273,500 (including personal services and S & S) while the program's biennial fee revenue is approximately \$220,500.

This concept proposes to raise the statutory caps for application and permit fees, both for facilities registered to the program's general permits and for facilities that obtain an individual permit issued by ODA and DEQ. The proposed caps will provide long-term stability and funding for one NRS3 inspector position. ODA will establish actual fees in rule that will provide the needed funds to support one position.

### **Stakeholder Outreach**

ODA has worked with its CAFO Advisory Committee to discuss an updated fee structure. Agency leadership has also discussed the concept with the Board of Agriculture and key stakeholders, including the Dairy Farmers of Oregon, Oregon Cattlemen's Association, and individual permit holders.