
WA CAFO Permit Fact Sheet

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WA Ecology Proposes Fees for CAFO Dairies that are 20 Years Behind the Times

WA Ecology is in the process of adjusting fees for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits in our state under WAC 173-224. The deadline for submitting comments is May 12, 2023. See <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Laws-rules-rulemaking/Rulemaking/WAC-173-224>

Chapter 173-224 WAC implements RCW 90.48.465 that requires Ecology to establish, by rule, annual fees to recover the cost of administering the wastewater and stormwater permit programs.

NPDES permits for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) are subject to this rulemaking. The proposed fee adjustments for CAFOs are not sufficient to cover the costs of the NPDES program for CAFOs. The proposed fees for dairies are much lower than proposed fees for other CAFOs.

Ecology provides a *Focus Sheet: Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation – Annual water quality permit fees* at <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/2310012.pdf>

This focus sheet says that a permitted calf feeding CAFO with 50 calves will pay \$350 for an NPDES permit. This focus sheet says that a dairy CAFO with 200 milk cows and 100 heifers will pay \$167 for an NPDES permit. Where is the equity?

Since 1999 Ecology has charged dairies \$0.50 per animal unit for NPDES permits. If Ecology had adjusted this fee, in accordance with the fiscal growth factor as provided for in RCW 90.48.465, the fee would now be \$0.87 per animal unit. But now, in 2023, Ecology proposes to increase fees for dairies to \$0.52 per

animal unit. This will not cover expenses for implementing NPDES programs for dairy CAFOs.

If you believe that everyone should pay their fair share to address the serious water pollution issues in Washington State, please send comments on WAC 173-224 to Ecology at <https://wq.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=BJDPi>

Thanks for reading this email.

Friends of Toppenish Creek

You have received this Fact Sheet because you are on a list of potentially interested parties. If you do not want to receive further information, please contact Jean Mendoza at jeanmendoza@icloud.com