

Lead In

by Richard Spader, executive vice president



Tell legislators what you think of the proposed CAFO regulations

On Jan. 12 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published an extensive and costly proposed rule affecting all sectors of the beef industry. If adopted, this proposal could require even the smallest cattle operation to obtain an EPA permit for calving, weaning and background feeding operations. EPA's own rule estimates that this would cost cattle producers \$850 million to \$940 million per year, depending on which proposals are finalized. That would involve a substantial investment for the U.S. cattle industry.

The rule potentially could change the definitions of an "animal feeding operation" (AFO) and a "concentrated animal feeding operation" (CAFO) to include cow-calf wintering areas or other facilities historically considered nonpoint sources and never before regulated by the Clean Water Act (CWA). The lowering of the CAFO threshold will sweep additional small feedlots under the regulations of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

Currently, in most instances, cattle businesses of 1,000 animal units or more are required to be permitted.

The issue of co-permitting proposes processors who exercise substantial operational control over contract growers be co-permitted. That would include persons who direct activity of persons working at the CAFO, own animals, or specify how the animals are grown, fed or medicated.

Manure application will be controlled based on a "permit nutrient plan" (PNP) with a phosphorus standard.

An individual permit is required if the CAFO

- is in an environmentally sensitive area,
- has a history of compliance problems,
- is exceptionally large, or
- is significantly expanding.

The EPA is receiving comments from producers that can alter rule making until July 30. Now is the time to make your voice heard; review the prepared sample of producer comments about the regulation on the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Web site at <http://hill.beef.org/cnsrvt/cafocomments.htm>, then write your own comments and submit the original and three copies to the EPA at the following address:

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation Proposed Rule

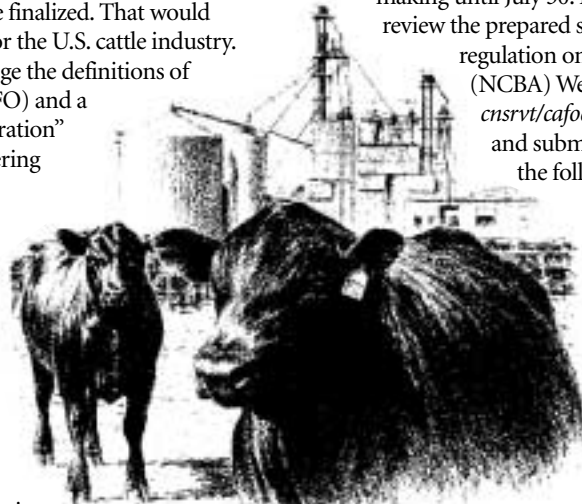
USEPA Office of Water
Engineering and Analysis Division (4303)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Also contact your legislators with letters or phone calls! Elected representatives need to hear from producers on this burdensome rule, which could become law by December 2002. If passed, it will add a large regulatory burden and create increased costs for cattle producers.

The NCBA contact is Faith Burns, (202) 347-0228 or fburns@beef.org.

Further information also is available from your state cattlemen's association.

The cattle industry supports efforts to protect the environment, but it recognizes that those efforts must be done in a manner that is site-specific, scientifically based and economically sound for private landowners.



SUMMARY OF SALES REPORTED TO THE AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION

MAY—FISCAL YEAR 2001

Type of Sale	Number Reported	COWS		BULLS		STEERS		Number Sold	TOTAL Gross	Avg. Price
		Number Sold	Avg. Price	Number Sold	Avg. Price	Number Sold	Avg. Price			
Consignment	23	513	\$ 2,248	1,091	\$ 2,171	—	—	1,604	\$ 3,521,931	\$ 2,196
Production	55	2,083	\$ 2,254	3,500	\$ 2,400	—	—	5,583	\$ 13,096,745	\$ 2,346
Dispersion	2	845	\$ 2,574	—	—	—	—	845	\$ 2,174,855	\$ 2,574
TOTALS:	80	3,441	\$2,332	4,591	\$2,346	—	—	8,032	\$ 18,793,531	\$2,340
YEAR-TO-DATE SUMMARY										
TOTALS:	527	17,540	\$2,408	29,091	\$2,271	102	\$978	46,733	\$108,419,698	\$2,320