

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

CLEAN WATER ACT RECOGNITION AWARDS

Water Resources Stewardship Awards for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations

OPERATING RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR STATE/REGIONAL CLEAN WATER ACT CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS RECOGNITION AWARDS MANAGERS

OVERVIEW

This document is the Operating Rules and Guidelines for the Region 5 States Water Resources Stewardship Awards for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) under the Clean Water Act (CWA) Recognition Awards program. A separate package should be completed for each award candidate in each category. The package includes specific application/nomination instructions, questionnaires and forms for the four awards categories as follows.

X	Beef
X	Dairy
X	Swine
X	Poultry

Instructions, questionnaire format and forms for the Water Resources Stewardship Awards for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) NPDES are attached. States and Regions are encouraged to administer CWA awards programs consistent with the national awards program guidance.

Region 5 and State Agency staff are encouraged to solicit input from the agricultural organizations in each States in selecting noteworthy CAFO to participate in the awards recognition program. States should nominate CAFOs believed to be practicing outstanding activities to manage wastewater and manure.

States should request qualified nominees to submit the materials needed to assess their operation. Each application should include the manager's nomination form and checklist, and appropriate application material from the attached Instructions, Questionnaires Format, and Forms (completed by the nominee).

Region 5 and State staff will evaluate the submitted materials, make the selection for each category of awards. The States, in conjunction with the Region, will notify the winners. Winners in all awards program categories will receive an award plaque. Public announcements of the awards presentation will be made through various sources.

INTRODUCTION

CWA Section 501(e) and 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 105 establish general requirements for the administration of the EPA's CWA Recognition Awards. Also, recognition offered by these awards is consistent with our National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) regulations.

The Water Resources Stewardship Awards for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) under the Clean Water Act (CWA) awards recognize CAFOs that have demonstrated outstanding achievements in waste treatment as part of their pollution abatement efforts. The program aims to heighten overall public awareness of CAFOs wastewater and manure management efforts and to encourage public support of programs that protect the operations of treatment facilities, the quality of the nation's receiving waters, and the use of manure as a resource, as well as support for contributions CAFOs makes to water quality.

States and Regions should ensure that applicants are currently in compliance with all EPA and State water quality requirements and have a satisfactory record with respect to environmental quality; have demonstrated outstanding or innovative practices; are nominated in the appropriate category; have completed the appropriate questionnaire and forms; and have included captioned photographic prints and essential NPDES information.

IMPLEMENTATION OF A REGIONAL CWA RECOGNITION AWARDS PROGRAM

Regions and States have been encouraged to develop a regional CWA Recognition Awards programs. States are encouraged to recommend to EPA Regional award contacts operations for nomination.

For EPA Regions that implement a regional awards recognition program, State managers should ensure that the Applicant or nominee recommended for a regional award meet the minimum criteria to be a regional winner. The State managers must verify the category and the acceptability of the applicant or nominee's compliance record before nominating the applicant for a regional award.

States are encouraged to widely publicize this awards program and to request applications from appropriate facilities consistent with these guidelines. Each nomination should be accompanied by specific information listed for the appropriate awards program category.

STATE / REGIONAL NOMINATION REVIEW PROCEDURES

Regions must review the recommendations accepted for consideration for the awards from the States. Applications or nominations are considered for Beef, Dairy, Poultry and Swine for the awards program categories.;

All nominations for the individual awards must be recommended by States to EPA Region 5 and include documentation listed below. A separate package should be prepared for each nominated facility consisting of:

- Completed State Award Managers' Nomination Form;
- Application and Questionnaire Forms and a separate Application Checklist Form for each nominated facility;
- Screen results from the Quarterly Noncompliance Reports (QNCRs);
- The Permit Compliance System (PCS) data, and other sources including institutional knowledge should be included; and
- All appropriate application and questionnaire forms from the nominee.

Electronic submission of nominations is preferred. EPA's Region 5 Awards Program Coordinators contact information is included in the information specified for each category. States are responsible for forwarding all nominees for receipt in Region 5 Office by **February 24, 2007**. **State Contacts are listed below.**

REVIEW/SELECTION SCHEDULE

The following is a schedule of activities for planning and implementing the Water Resources Stewardship Awards for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations Recognition Awards Program:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Completion Framework</u>
Awards Guidance Issued.....	September 2006
States solicit participation in the awards process.....	October 2006
States accept nomination packages for consideration.	January 19 2007
Nominations and applications received in Regional Office.....	
Notifications made.	February 24 2006
	March 30 2007

State Contacts:

Illinois Environmental protection Agency
 Dick Breckenridge: **217-558-6818**

Indiana Department of Environmental management
 Not identified yet.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
 Ronda Wuycheck: **517 241-7832**

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
 Bob Finley: **320-214-3794**

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
 Cathy Alexander: **614 644-2021**

Wisconsin Department of Natural resources
 Gordon Stevenson: **608-267-2759**