

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets Water Quality Division FY2020 Inspection and Enforcement Summary

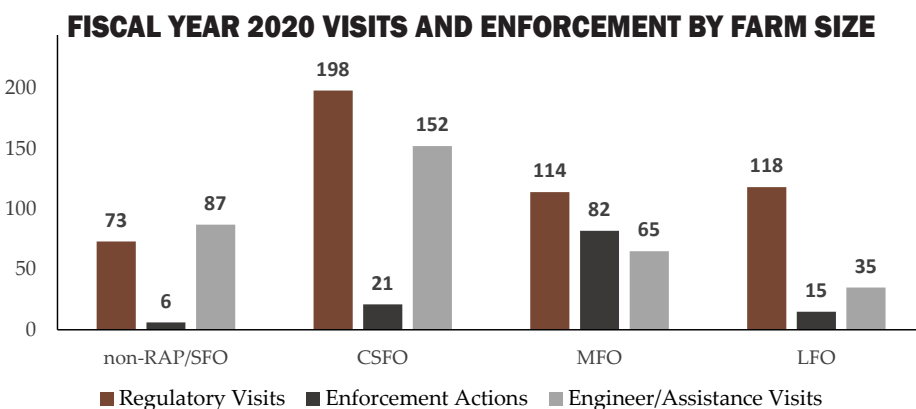
The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFMM) has developed a comprehensive approach to the regulation of farms in order to best protect Vermont's water resources. VAAFMM's approach provides size-specific regulatory oversight of Vermont farms of all sizes subject to regulation under the Required Agricultural Practices (RAP) Rule, including Small Farm Operations (SFOs), Certified Small Farm Operations (CSFOs), Medium Farm Operations (MFOs), and Large Farm Operations (LFOs).

This factsheet summarizes data from the VAAFMM Agricultural Water Quality Enforcement Program State Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) Annual Report. In FY20, the Enforcement Program recorded 503 water quality compliance visits. The Ag Water Quality Enforcement Report can be found at agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality/enforcement-compliance/enforcement-reports.

SUMMARY OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS AND REFERRALS 2016-2020

YEAR	INVESTIGATIONS & INSPECTIONS	FARMS RECEIVING ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS	FARM REFERRALS TO ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE	FARM REFERRALS TO AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
2016	379	38	1	1
2017	505	82	2	18
2018	652	101	7	32
2019	571	98	6	38
2020	503	106	2	34

Data reported for 2016 and 2017 reflect calendar year reporting. 2018-2020 data reflects State Fiscal Year reporting.



ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS AND ASSOCIATED MONETARY PENALTIES

In FY20, VAAFMM issued 124 enforcement actions for alleged violations on 106 farms. VAAFMM additionally issued two enforcement actions to one custom manure applicator for violations of the RAPs. Of these enforcement actions, 25 were Notices of Violation (NOVs) with proposed associated monetary penalties totaling \$44,750.

VAAFMM referred two cases to the Vermont Attorney General's Office (AGO) for review in FY20, and the AGO is working to obtain corrective action and monetary penalties.

A further 34 farms and one custom applicator were referred to the Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation (ANR DEC) for alleged point source discharges of wastes to surface water. For information related to these referrals, please contact ANR DEC.

36 LFOs
110 MFOs
308 CSFOs

NUMBERS OF OPERATIONS OF VARYING SIZES
PERMITTED BY VAAFMM WATER QUALITY DIVISION

79 APPLICATORS
CERTIFIED CUSTOM MANURE APPLICATORS

842 VISITS

BY VAAFMM STAFF FOR WATER QUALITY
INSPECTION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

**126 ENFORCEMENT
ACTIONS**

ASSOCIATED WITH 227 ALLEGED VIOLATIONS



Above: A VAAFMM Water Quality Specialist assesses areas adjacent to a manure pit during an inspection.

Below: A VAAFMM Water Quality Specialist measures the distance between an annual crop field and the adjacent surface water.

