

# Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs)

## FARM SIZE DEFINITIONS DRAFT-SHEET

Sections §2.25, §3.1(a-d), §4.10  
in RAPs

Updated November 30, 2015



### What Farm Size are You?



#### Regulatory Authority

#### Type of Farm

#### Requirements Needed to Meet Farm Type

- 1. Local Zoning may apply authority to Non-RAP Operations (NROs).
- 2. NOT Required to follow the RAPs.

#### Non-RAP Operations (NRO)



1. Operates LESS THAN 4 continuous acres for farming AND has animal numbers below Uncertified Farm Operation (Example: 1-4 cows; 1-3 horses; 1-99 layers)  
- OR -
2. Makes LESS THAN \$2,000 Annual Gross Income AND did NOT file a 1040F once in the last 2 years.

- 1. Agency of Agriculture, Food & Market (VAAFAM) regulates Uncertified Farm Operations (UFOs).
- 2. Farm MUST follow RAPs.

#### Uncertified Farm Operations (UFO)



1. Operates 4-9.99 acres that are used for farming AND Meets Animal Numbers (Example: 5-19 cows)  
- OR -
2. Regardless of acreage, any farming operation that makes more than \$2,000 Annual Gross Income AND Filed a 1040F within the last 2 Years  
- OR -
3. Has an Approved Business Management Plan  
- OR -
4. 10+ Acres used for cropland with NO manure, compost or wastes applied

- 1. VAAFAM regulates Certified SFOs.
- 2. Farm needs to ANNUALLY Self-Certify -AND- MUST follow RAPs.

#### Certified Small Farm Operations (SFO)



1. Operates 10+ acres used for farming  
- AND -
- 2a. Meets Animal Numbers (Example: 20-199 cows)  
- OR -
- 2b. Applies manure, compost or other waste to farming acres

- 1. VAAFAM regulates MFOs.
- 2. Farm needs a MFO General Permit - AND - MUST follow permit and RAPs.

#### Permitted Medium Farm Operations (MFO)



1. Meet Animal Numbers for MFO (Example: 200-699 Cows)

- 1. VAAFAM regulates LFOs.
- 2. Farm needs a LFO Individual Permit - AND - MUST follow permit and RAPs.

#### Permitted Large Farm Operations (LFO)



1. Meet Animal Numbers for LFO (Example: 700+ Cows)

To learn more about the DRAFT agricultural water quality regulations (RAPs), visit:  
[www.Agriculture.Vermont.gov/water-quality/regulations/rap](http://www.Agriculture.Vermont.gov/water-quality/regulations/rap)



# Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs)

## TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS

### DRAFT-SHEET

Sections §4.10, §4.12, §10.0  
in RAPs

Updated November 30, 2015

#### What Trainings and Certifications Will You Need?



#### SMALL FARM CERTIFICATION



#### FARM OPERATOR TRAINING



#### CUSTOM MANURE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION

#### Who Needs It?

All farms meeting the Certified Small Farm Operations (SFOs) definition will certify that the farm is in compliance with all Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs).

Training will be for all Certified Small Farm Operations (SFOs), Medium Farm Operations (MFOs), and Large Farm Operations (LFOs).

Certification is required by a person who is engaged in the business of applying manure or other nutrients to land, except commercial fertilizer, and who charges or collects other consideration for the service.

#### What information will be provided?

- Understand and comply with all Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs).
- Required to notify the Secretary of any changes in ownership or land base, including changes to leased land of the farm within 30 days.
- Meets training requirements of the Farm Operator Training.

- Regulatory requirements of farm operations and financial assistance available to meet requirements.
- Prevention of discharges.
- Methods and techniques used to minimize nutrient runoff.
- Management of stormwater runoff.
- Knowledge of weather & soil conditions that increase risk of runoff.
- Understand the value of following Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs).

- Will learn and must demonstrate knowledge of Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs) and NRCS 590 Nutrient Management and Application Standard.
- Will learn and must demonstrate competency in methods and techniques to ensure appropriate nutrient application in compliance with environmental standards.
- Be able to train all employees and seasonal workers in methods and techniques to meet RAPs and NRCS Nutrient Application Standards.

#### How Often?

Shall certify annually and shall be inspected within 10 years of initial certification.

Shall obtain 4 hours of approved training at least every 5 years.

Certification shall be valid for 5 years.  
Shall obtain 8 hours of approved training in every 5 year period.

To learn more about the proposed agricultural water quality regulations (RAPs), visit: [www.Agriculture.Vermont.gov/water-quality/regulations/rap](http://www.Agriculture.Vermont.gov/water-quality/regulations/rap)

