Environmental Compliance

When starting or expanding a dairy operation, producers must not only consider the financial and logistical aspects—they must also consider environmental compliance. Without including environmental compliance in the planning process, the operation could be subject to extensive fines or possibly closure. This document summarizes what is required of dairy operations to be compliant with Kentucky’s environmental laws and regulations. Because it is a summary, it should not be used exclusively; it should be used as a guide to seek further information from the resources provided.

Resources

- University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service
- Division of Conservation
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Kentucky Division of Water
- Kentucky Department of Health Service, Milk Safety Branch
- Kentucky Dairy Development Council

For environmental emergencies such as spills of gas, oil or other substances, contact the Environmental Response Team 1-800-928-2380.

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KY Dairy Checklist

☐ Kentucky No Discharge Operational Permit (KNDOP)

Operations using a liquid waste system must obtain a KNDOP from the Kentucky Division of Water (KDOM). The permit application (Short Form B) can be found on the KDOM’s website. NOTE: An Animal Waste Construction Permit must be obtained from KDOM prior to constructing a liquid waste system.

☐ Agriculture Water Quality Plan (AWQP)

Agriculture operations with 10 or more acres of land are required to have an AWQP, which is a list of planned and implemented best management practices. To develop an AWQP, visit www.bae.uky.edu/awqpt or contact the local Conservation District office.

☐ Nutrient Management Plan

Livestock operations must have a Nutrient Management Plan as part of their AWQP. If the operation is using technical/financial assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), then a Technical Service Provider must develop the plan (CNMP). If the operation is not using NRCS assistance, then a Kentucky Nutrient Management Plan (KyNMP) can be developed. To develop a KyNMP, visit the local Conservation District office or www.bae.uky.edu/awqpt

What are Best Management Practices?

Best management Practices (BMPs) are research proven methods of farm management that provide production benefits while minimizing adverse affects to the environment.

Recommended BMPs for Dairies

☐ Install alternative water sources.
☐ Exclude livestock from streams, ponds, sinkholes, and any other environmentally-sensitive areas.
☐ Implement proper grazing use and rotational grazing practices to protect soil and preserve pasture quality.
☐ Install heavy-use area pads around areas that receive heavy traffic, such as waterers, feeders, shade structures, mineral blocks, and windbreaks.
☐ Clean manure from congregation and feeding areas. Apply this manure to a crop field or place it in a covered stack pad for later application.
☐ Manage mortalities by composting or some other legal means of disposal.