CAFOs 2014 README

**Data Source:**

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

**Data Type:**

Permitted Confined Animal Operations

**Use constraints:**

There are no restrictions and legal prerequisites for using this data set. The state of Colorado assumes no liability to the completeness, correctness, or fitness for use of this data set. Please contact Daniel Bon with questions or comments.

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**Description:**

The data provided are for maximum permitted capacity for confined animal operations in the State of Colorado. These facilities are regulated under state water quality regulations ([WQCC Regulation No. 61](http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?blobcol=urldata&blobheadername1=Content-Disposition&blobheadername2=Content-Type&blobheadervalue1=inline%3B+filename%3D%22Regulation+No.+61+-+Colorado+Discharge+Permit+System+Regulations.pdf%22&blobheadervalue2=application%2Fpdf&blobkey=id&blobtable=MungoBlobs&blobwhere=1251839871303&ssbinary=true)). Facilities report annually using this form ([Annual Reporting Form](http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?blobcol=urldata&blobheadername1=Content-Disposition&blobheadername2=Content-Type&blobheadervalue1=inline%3B+filename%3D%22CAFO+Annual+Report+Form.pdf%22&blobheadervalue2=application%2Fpdf&blobkey=id&blobtable=MungoBlobs&blobwhere=1251907265063&ssbinary=true)), which gives an idea of what data are collected. A summary of the relevant regulatory definitions are included below.

It is important to note that these are not headcounts. Any animals using pasture such as young animals or free range animals would not be represented in this data. Headcounts by county can be found here: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Colorado/>

Also, confined animals at facilities below the permitting thresholds are not represented here.

Finally, plotted data are in “animal equivalents”. This is a water quality term for comparing capacities. In the data table, it can seen that for water quality purposes:

1 Beef Cow= 1/2 Horse= (1/1.43) Dairy Cow = 100 poultry = 10 sheep, etc.

There are two conversions for Swine depending on the type of operation (see below).

In the data table, I have applied the conversion to derive actual maximum head count for each facility by animal type.

**Additional information:**

**Swine Operations**

We have two types of swine operations in the state, those that are only defined as a CAFO and those that are also defined as a HCSFO. This is what I was trying to explain in my last email. Swine operations that confine less than 800,000 lbs of live animal weight but more than 2,500 animals  at > 55 lbs. or more than 10,000 animals  at < 55 lbs. are defined as CAFOs. These facilities will have an Ag\_Program number in the data set that starts with CONPC. These swine facilities will use a conversion factor of .4.

From [WQCC Regulation No. 61](http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?blobcol=urldata&blobheadername1=Content-Disposition&blobheadername2=Content-Type&blobheadervalue1=inline%3B+filename%3D%22Regulation+No.+61+-+Colorado+Discharge+Permit+System+Regulations.pdf%22&blobheadervalue2=application%2Fpdf&blobkey=id&blobtable=MungoBlobs&blobwhere=1251839871303&ssbinary=true)

(51)      “LARGE CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATION” (Large CAFO) means an AFO that stables or confines as many as or more than the numbers of animals specified in any of the following categories:

(a)        700 mature dairy cows, whether milked or dry;

(b)        1,000 veal calves

(c)        1,000 cattle other than mature dairy cows or veal calves. Cattle includes but is not

limited to heifers, steers, bulls, and cow/calf pairs;

(d)        2,500 swine each weighing 55 pounds or more;

(e)        10,000 swine each weighing less than 55 pounds;

(f)         500 horses;

(g)        10,000 sheep or lambs;

(h)        55,000 turkeys;

(i)         30,000 laying hens or broilers, if the AFO uses a liquid manure handling system;

(j)         125,000 chickens (other than laying hens), if the AFO uses other than a liquid manure

handling system;

(k)        82,000 laying hens, if the AFO uses other than a liquid manure handling system;

(l)        30,000 ducks (if the AFO uses other than a liquid manure handling system); or

(m)       5,000 ducks (if the AFO uses a liquid manure handling system).