

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Annual Report on Animal Waste Operations Permitting, Inspection and Compliance Activities

July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013

Per G.S. 143-215.10M, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources reports annually to the Environmental Review Commission and Fiscal Research Division on the permitting, inspection, and compliance activity of animal waste operations across the state. Accounting for activities required under G.S. 143-215.10F and S.L. 1997-443 (and its subsequent amendments) is also included in this report.

General Statute 143-215.10F requires annual inspection of every permitted animal operation by the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) (Divisions of Water Quality and Water Resources have merged into one program called the N.C. Division of Water Resources (DWR), effective August 1, 2013). Under S.L. 1997-443, the Division of Soil and Water Conservation (DSWC) (effective July 1, 2011, DSWC is a division under the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services) has been conducting a pilot project inspecting swine operations in Brunswick, Columbus, Jones & Pender counties. Effective July 1, 2011, HB 200 removed the requirement for DSWC to inspect each animal operation annually and removed funding for the operations reviews. As a result, DWR conducts routine animal operation inspections. DSWC continues to perform pilot program inspections under S.L. 1997-443, and provides technical assistance and operation review inspections upon request.

The tables below indicate the number of inspections performed by the DWR and the DSWC, the numbers of violations identified during inspections, enforcement actions initiated, and permits issued for July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

Overall, the two divisions conducted 2,259 compliance inspections and operation reviews during the 2012-2013 fiscal year throughout the seven regional offices (Table 1). Regional office abbreviations are explained at the end of this document. Each facility received at least one compliance inspection by DWR, or by DSWC in pilot counties.

Table 1. Inspection activities of DWR and DSWC staff during the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

INSPECTIONS	ARO	FRO	MRO	RRO	WARO	WIRO	WSRO	State Totals
DWR Total number of inspections completed	26	658	98	255	395	549	107	2088
Routine DWR annual compliance inspections	24	631	94	234	391	545	78	1997
Inspections conducted due to complaints	2	6	2	2	1	1	12	26
Follow-up of previous review or inspection	0	15	2	7	3	1	9	37
Emergency Notification	0	2	0	0	0	1	3	6
Lagoon Evaluations	0	1	0	12	0	0	2	15
Other inspections	0	3	0	0	0	1	3	7
DSWC Total number of compliance inspections completed*					41	127		168
Routine DSWC annual compliance inspections					39	125		164
Inspections conducted due to complaints					0	0		0
Follow-up of previous review or inspection					1	2		3
Emergency Notification					0	0		0
Response to DWR referral					0	0		0
Other inspections					1	0		1
DSWC Total number of operation reviews completed**	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	3
Routine operation reviews	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Technical Assistance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Follow-up of previous review or inspection	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Emergency Notification	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other inspections	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	3
Totals	26	658	98	255	438	676	108	2259
Total number of Animal Operations requiring Inspections and Operations Reviews during this year	25	746	76	223	518	673	91	2362

*Pilot Project, S.L. 1997-443 and subsequent amendments.

** Total number of permitted facilities.

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Table 2 presents the total number of permits issued by DWR by regional office in FY 2012-13. This number includes new projects, as well as, any modifications made to existing permits including renewals. Approximately 2,300 farms are covered under General Permits, which are renewed on a five-year cycle. The next renewal for these permits will take place in 2014.

Table 2. Permits Issued by DWR for Animal Operations in Each Regional Office During July 1, 2012 Through June 30, 2013.*

ANIMAL OPERATIONS PERMITS ISSUED	ARO	FRO	MRO	RRO	WARO	WIRO	WSRO	State Totals
Swine	0	36	1	9	46	32	0	124
Cattle	2	1	6	1	0	0	1	11
Poultry	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Horses	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Manure Hauler	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Totals	2	38	8	12	46	33	1	140

* Includes modifications, renewals, and new projects

Tables 3 and 5 provide a summary by regional office of numbers and types of deficiencies and violations found during DWR and DSWC inspections over the past fiscal year. Some of these violations were self-reported and were included in the table to provide a complete picture of the number of deficiency or violation letters issued.

Table 3. Deficiencies and violations found during DWR and DSWC inspections during the past fiscal year by each regional office.

DEFICIENCIES AND VIOLATIONS IDENTIFIED	ARO	FRO	MRO	RRO	WARO	WIRO	WSRO	State Totals
Deficiencies and Violations found during DSWC operations reviews and DWR inspections*	6	37	16	22	19	5	38	143
Number of facilities receiving a deficiency or violation from inspections	4	18	11	5	17	1	7	63
Enforcement actions initiated for violations noted during this year**	1	1	1	2	2	0	4	11

*Violation totals include violations noted during both operation reviews and compliance inspections and may include multiple violations at a single facility.

**Some violation letters were sent due to violations that were self-reported, and not discovered during an inspection.

***Some enforcement actions being developed by the regional staff are normally not shown as actions initiated during that year. These actions will be included in the next annual report.

Out of the 2,259 inspections, approximately 6% of the inspections identified violations (Table 4). Note that each inspection reviews seven major items and with 2,259 inspections, there is the potential for a total of 15,813 major violations. There were 143 violations identified (less than 1% of the universe of potential violations). Inadequate freeboard, unpermitted discharges from the systems, evidence of over application and use of crops not identified in the permit were the most common violations and deficiencies (Tables 4 – 6). Swine facilities had the highest number of violations and deficiencies among the types of animal operations. This is to be expected as there are many more permitted swine facilities than cattle or poultry facilities (Table 6).

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Table 4. A breakdown of specific violations discovered during DWR and DSWC inspections during the past fiscal year.

DEFICIENCIES AND VIOLATIONS IDENTIFIED	Total number of inspections with identified problem	Percent of total problems identified	Percent of total inspections completed (2259)
Discharges from Animal Waste Management System	22	15.4%	1.0%
Of the total discharges identified, the number of discharges that reached surface waters of the state	(14)	(9.8%)	(0.6%)
Inadequate Freeboard (Permitted Farms)	57	39.9%	2.5%
Of the total inspections identified with inadequate freeboard, the number of inspections with freeboard noted at less than 1 foot	(19)	(13.3%)	(0.8%)
No Certified Operator in Charge	0	0.0%	0.0%
Evidence of over application	36	25.2%	1.6%
Does not meet setbacks	3	2.1%	0.1%
Inadequate land	3	2.1%	0.1%
Crop differs from that stated in Certified Animal Waste Management Plan	22	15.4%	1.0%
Totals*	143	100.0%	6.3%

Table 5. Deficiencies and Violations Discovered During DWR and DSWC Inspections by Regional Office Over the Past Fiscal Year.

DEFICIENCIES AND VIOLATIONS IDENTIFIED	ARO	FRO	MRO	RRO	WARO	WIRO	WSRO	State Totals
Discharges from Animal Waste Management System	1	5	0	10	0	1	5	22
Of the total discharges identified, the number of discharges that reached surface waters of the state	(1)	(0)	(0)	(8)	(0)	(0)	(5)	(14)
Inadequate Freeboard (Permitted Farms)	4	14	4	6	10	3	16	57
Of the total inspections identified with inadequate freeboard, the number of inspections with freeboard noted at less than 1 foot	(2)	(7)	(4)	(2)	(2)	(0)	(2)	(19)
No Certified Operator in Charge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Evidence of over application	0	13	5	6	8	1	3	36
Does not meet setbacks	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Inadequate land	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3
Crop differs from that stated in Certified Animal Waste Management Plan	1	4	7	0	1	0	9	22
Totals	6	37	16	22	19	5	38	143

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Table 6. Deficiencies and Violations Found During Inspection by DWR and DSWC at Each Type of Animal Operation Over the Past Fiscal Year.

DEFICIENCIES AND VIOLATIONS IDENTIFIED	Swine	Cattle	Poultry	Horses	State Totals
Discharges from Animal Waste Management System	7	14	1	0	22
Of the total discharges identified, the number of discharges that reached surface waters of the state	(1)	(13)	(0)	(0)	(14)
Inadequate Freeboard (Permitted Farms)	31	23	3	0	57
Of the total inspections identified with inadequate freeboard, the number of inspections with freeboard noted at less than 1 foot	(9)	(8)	(2)	(0)	(19)
No Certified Operator in Charge	0	0	0	0	0
Evidence of over application	26	9	1	0	36
Does not meet setbacks	0	2	1	0	3
Inadequate land	1	2	0	0	3
Crop differs from that stated in Certified Animal Waste Management Plan	9	12	1	0	22
Totals	74	62	7	0	143
Total Number of Animal Operations	2135	202	21	2	2360

Regional Office Abbreviations:

- ARO – Asheville Regional Office
- FRO – Fayetteville Regional Office
- MRO – Mooresville Regional Office
- RRO – Raleigh Regional Office
- WARO – Washington Regional Office
- WIRO – Wilmington Regional Office
- WSRO – Winston-Salem Regional Office