

Effective June 25, 2001

**RULES
OF
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIVISION**

**CHAPTER 40-16-5
ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATOR TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION**

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40-16-5-.01 Definitions.

(1) A Swine Feeding Operator means a person who is designated as such by the owner of a swine feeding operation which is permitted by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division.

(2) An Animal (Non-Swine) Feeding Operator means a person who is designated as such by the owner of a non-swine (i.e dairy, layer) feeding operation which handles liquid manure and is permitted by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division.

(3) Animal Feeding Operators will include Swine Feeding Operators and Animal (Non-Swine) Feeding Operators as herein defined.

40-16-5-.02 Application for Animal Feeding Operator Training and Certification

Application for Animal Feeding Operator Training and Certification shall be made to the Department of Agriculture on a form approved by the Department.

40-16-5-.03 Animal Feeding Operator Training

(1) An Animal Feeding Operator shall be considered trained when the applicant successfully completes a minimum of 2 days instruction on the following:

- (a) Understanding state regulations and water quality laws,
- (b) Comprehensive nutrient management planning,
- (c) Best management practices for manure storage, treatment and land application,
- (d) Monitoring and record keeping,
- (e) Pollution prevention and alternative treatment systems, and
- (f) Odor and atmospheric emissions.

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(2) Training will be developed and delivered by the Georgia Cooperative Extension Service or other subject matter experts as deemed appropriate by the Department. Training will be structured to address the needs of operators of differing sizes and various waste management technologies. The Department shall approve the use of all training materials and methods.

40-16-5-.04 Animal Feeding Operator Certification

(1) An Animal Feeding Operator shall be considered certified when the applicant demonstrates competency in all of the above listed modules including passing a written examination with a minimum score of 70%. Examinations will be structured to address the needs of operators of various production sizes and waste management technologies. The Department will administer and grade the examinations. The Department shall issue a certificate to the operator upon the successful completion of training and certification.

(a) An Animal Feeding Operator who fails to make a minimum score of 70% on the initial examination may retake an exam up to three (3) times within a twelve (12) month period, after which he or she must complete an instructional course approved by the Department before taking another exam.

(2) Animal Feeding Operators must receive a minimum of 4 hours continuing education every two years from the date of the original certification. The Department shall approve all continuing education instruction and materials and will issue certificates of completion indicating the course topic and hours of instruction.

(3) Failure of an Animal Feeding Operator to receive continued education will result in suspension of certification and require recertification.

(4) The Department has final authority over all training, certification, and continuing education.

(5) The Department shall provide the Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division with a current list of Certified Animal Feeding Operators upon request.

Authority O.C.G.A. Section 12-5-20, as amended; DNR Rule 391-3-6-.20 and 391-3-6-.21.