

Animal Waste Operator Certification

This document includes:

- Animal Waste Operator Certification Protocol and Information

Information about this certification area can be found at:
<https://animalwaste.ces.ncsu.edu/animal-waste-operator-resources/>

Training manuals and slide shows are available at:
<http://www.soil.ncsu.edu/certification/Manual/index.htm>

North Carolina Agricultural Education Certification Program

Animal Waste Operator Certification

North Carolina Agricultural Education Courses with content in this certification area:

Animal Science I and II

The North Carolina General Assembly passed legislation in 1995 and 1996 requiring certification of operators of animal waste management systems. The law requires a certified operator for animal waste management systems that serve over 250 swine, 100 confined cattle, 75 horses, 1000 sheep, or 30,000 poultry with a liquid animal waste management system. To become a certified operator, one must complete an approved training course on the operation of animal waste management systems, pass an appropriate examination, and pay the required fees. This training program is designed to provide operators of animal waste management systems the basic understanding needed to operate and maintain these systems in an efficient and environmentally sound manner. This training program is not intended to provide all of the technical details for the complete design of a waste management system or an approved animal waste management plan. There are many good reference materials that have been published on these subjects that can provide more detailed information if desired.

Information about this certification area can be found at this website: http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/topic/animal-waste-mgmt/edu_prog.htm .

Training Manuals and Slide Shows are available at: <http://www.soil.ncsu.edu/certification/Manual/index.htm>

Informational Summary

To become certified to operate a Type A or Type B animal waste management system, you must first successfully complete the approved training program. Second, you must submit an application to the Water Pollution Control System Operators Certification Commission with the appropriate fee attached. Third, you must pass an examination administered by the Water Pollution Control System Operators Certification Commission.

Water Pollution Control System Operators Certification Commission

The commission responsible for the certification of animal waste management system operators is the Water Pollution Control System Operators Certification Commission (WPCSOCC). The Certification Commission is also responsible for the certification of other water pollution control system operators, such as wastewater treatment plant operators, collection system operators, spray irrigation system operators, land application of residuals system operators, and subsurface system operators. In addition to certification of operators, the Certification Commission is responsible for the classification of water pollution control systems and the development and implementation of training programs for the certification of operators.

The Certification Commission has 11 members. Two members represent the animal agriculture industry and are appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture. The remaining nine members are appointed by the Secretary of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources and represent other areas of the water pollution control system industry. The Commission is located in the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources and is assisted by the staff of DWQ's Technical Assistance and Certification Group.

Classification of Animal Waste Management Systems

The Certification Commission has established two types of animal waste management systems:

- Type A Animal Waste Management Systems

•Type B Animal Waste Management Systems

The Type A systems primarily rely on an anaerobic lagoon and soil/plant systems for the treatment of animal waste. These systems are generally used to treat animal waste generated by animals that produce a low-fiber waste, such as swine and poultry. These systems generally include the following components: anaerobic lagoon; pumps; pipes and other structures that carry waste from the point of generation to the final treatment/disposal site; flushing systems; solids separation equipment; irrigation equipment; and land application site and crops.

Type B systems primarily rely on soil/plant systems for the treatment of animal waste. These systems are generally used to treat animal waste generated by animals that produce a high-fiber waste, such as cattle, horses, and sheep. These systems generally include the following components: dry stacks; solids and slurry collection equipment; storage ponds for the collection of solids and runoff; pumps, pipes and other structures that carry waste from the point of generation to the final treatment/disposal site; flushing systems; solids separation equipment; irrigation equipment; and land application site and crops.

Certification of Animal Waste Management System Operators

Separate training and certification programs have been developed for each type of animal waste management system.

To become certified as a Type A or Type B Animal Waste Management System Operator, you must complete the appropriate training program and pass the appropriate examination. To maintain your certification, you must pay an annual renewal fee and complete 6 hours of additional training every 3 years. If you fail to pay the annual renewal fee within 30 days of the due date, or if you fail to complete the approved additional training within 30 days of the end of the 3-year period, you must take and pass another examination in order to renew your certificate.