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Animal waste complaints How the process works

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Production agriculture continues to be a challenging and rewarding way of life. But with this way of life comes new problems as we do business in a changing environment. With an increased awareness of our natural resources, people are interested in keeping our environment not only clean but also capable of supporting a desirable lifestyle.

For owners of livestock facilities, there are many production issues to deal with. Recently in Oregon, an awareness of animal waste and how to manage this product has caused many owners to examine their facilities.

Oregon law prohibits discharging of animal waste into the waters of the State. Oregon law also requires certain livestock owners in the State to obtain a Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permit with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA).

The permit is required from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), but ODA provides permit evaluation and distribution.

Under certain conditions—like adverse weather, poorly designed facilities, or a lack of proper management—animal wastes can contaminate Oregon's water. This occurs on facilities with and without a CAFO permit.

For the purpose of this publication, a complaint can be filed against any livestock owner who may be suspected of discharging animal wastes into Oregon's water.

Agencies involved

Before we outline the complaint process, here's a quick look at the five

agricultural agencies, and the one nonagricultural agency, involved.

The *Oregon Department of Agriculture* (ODA) administers the complaint process. ODA's Division of Natural Resources determines which complaints are valid; then it may direct them to the appropriate agency for further action.

Oregon's 45 *Soil and Water Conservation Districts* (SWCD) are local subdivisions of State government that help farmers by coordinating technical and financial assistance to solve resource problems. The local SWCD works with ODA in conducting the initial complaint investigation, and it continues to work with the livestock owner to resolve waste management problems.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) *Soil Conservation Service* (SCS) provides technical assistance to livestock owners in developing the best management practices and facilities that an animal waste management plan must contain.

The USDA *Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service* (ASCS) provides cost-share assistance to livestock owners who meet certain guidelines.

Oregon State University Extension Service (OSUES) delivers education and technical assistance, and works with the four agencies above in developing standards and specifications for use in developing animal waste management plans.

The *Oregon Department of Environmental Quality* (DEQ) refers all complaints to the ODA (unless the

complaint is against an owner under an individual DEQ permit), and serves as the enforcement arm of State government. Livestock owners who continue contaminating the State's water can be levied a civil penalty and fined by DEQ.

ODA tries to work cooperatively with the operator to resolve animal waste problems. DEQ may assess civil penalties if cooperative efforts fail to resolve the problems.

All agencies seek a cooperative solution to an animal waste problem rather than enforcing changes through legal action and fines.

Steps in the process

On pages 2 and 3, you'll find a flow chart that describe the various steps and actions taken if a complaint is filed by a public individual or by a government agency.

Your responsibility

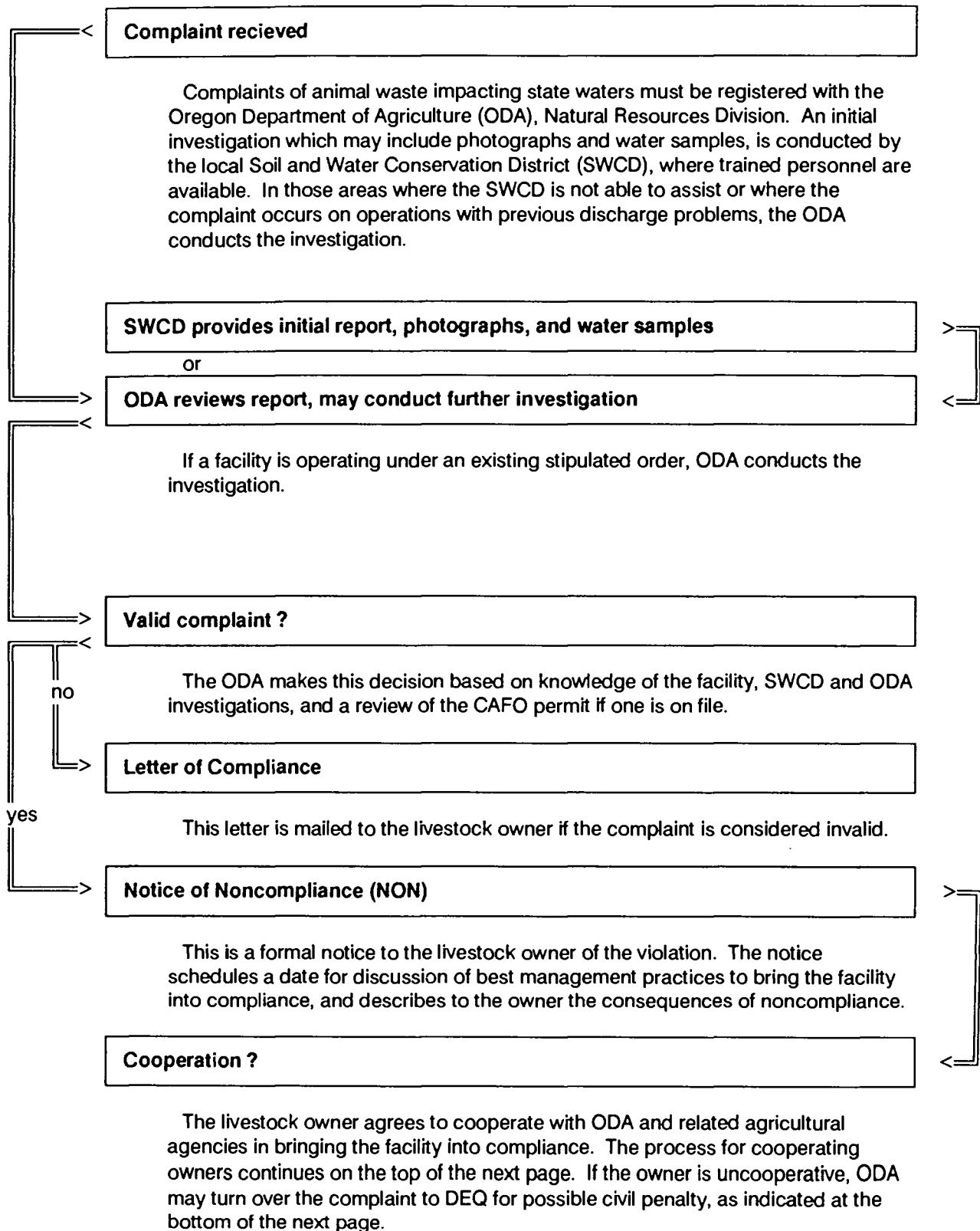
Well designed and managed animal waste systems will help you avoid complaints filed against your livestock operation. Plan ahead and seek advice from the Extension Service and your local Soil and Water Conservation District personnel in designing your animal waste storage and handling system.

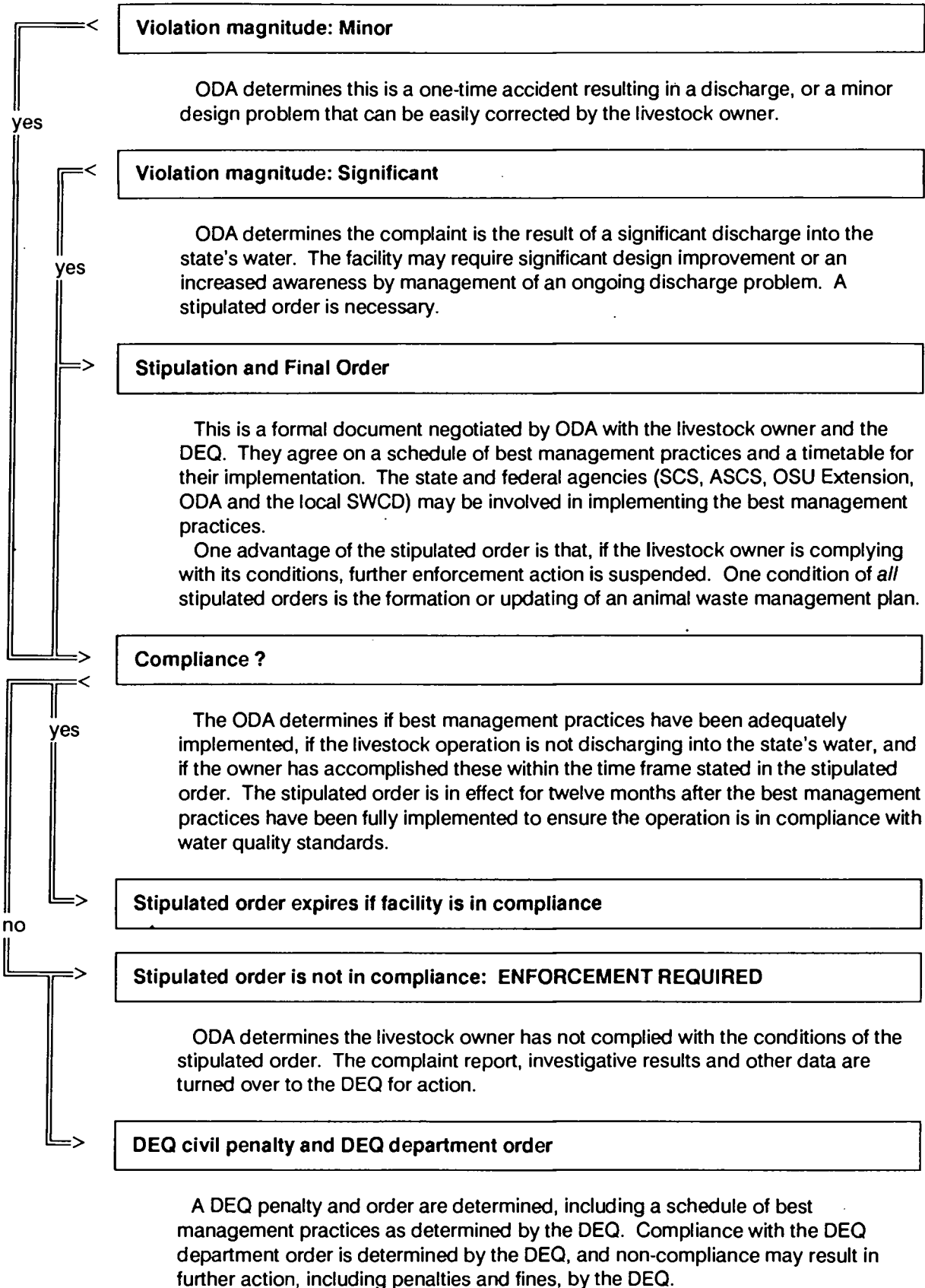
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Steps in handling animal waste complaints





Plan for some herd or flock expansion. Livestock prices will probably require that you manage more animals in the future.

If a complaint is made against your operation, get some advice! Seek the most economical solution to the problem by cooperating with the agency that's investigating the complaint. Improve your facilities to prevent further complaints.

OSU Extension publications for livestock owners

The following publications may help you design and operate a successful waste management program. They're available from:

Publications Orders
Agricultural Communications
Oregon State University
Administrative Services A422
Corvallis, OR 97331-2119

Shipping and handling: For single copies of any publication listed here (and for orders up to \$2.50), please include 25¢. For orders between \$2.50 and \$100, include 15%.

For orders of \$100 or more, or for 100 or more copies, please call Agricultural Communications (503-737-2513) for a quote on reduced shipping rates.

EC 1007, *Planning a dairy waste handling system*, by J.A. Moore. 1980. No charge.

EC 1077, *Managing pastures in western Oregon*, by T.E. Bedell. Revised 1986. 75¢

EC 1094, *Calculating the fertilizer value of manure from livestock operations*, by J.A. Moore and M.J. Gamroth. Revised 1991. 75¢

EC 1102, *Selecting a dairy waste management system for the Willamette Valley*, by J.A. Moore. 1982. No charge.

EC 1103, *Selecting a dairy waste management system for eastern Oregon*, by J.A. Moore. 1982. No charge.

EC 1104, *Selecting a dairy waste management system for the Oregon coast*, by J.A. Moore. 1982. No charge.

EC 1108, *Managing storage facilities for livestock manure*, by J.A. Moore and T.L. Willrich. 1982. No charge.

EC 1273, *Obtaining permits for livestock operations*, by J.A. Moore. 1988. No charge.

EM 8412, *Managing dairy grazing for the most efficient yields*, by L.E. Cannon, M.J. Gamroth, and P.J. Ballerstedt. 1990. 50¢

FG 74, *A list of analytical laboratories serving Oregon*, by J. Hart. Revised 1990. No charge.

FS 249, *Land application of sewage sludge*, by J.A. Moore. 1980. No charge.

FS 281, *Manure management practices to reduce water pollution*, by J.A. Moore and T.L. Willrich. 1982. No charge.

FS 282, *Controlling odors from confined animal operations*, by J.A. Moore and T.L. Willrich. 1982. No charge.

FS 302, *Why ventilate animal buildings?* by J.A. Moore. 1983. No charge.

PNW 307, *Troubleshooting a mechanical ventilation system for livestock or poultry housing*, by J.A. Moore. 1986. 50¢

PNW 321, *Designing dairy free stalls*, by M.J. Gamroth and J.A. Moore. 1987. 25¢

WREP 110, *Understanding the basics of managing dairy labor*, by M.J. Gamroth. 1989. 25¢

In preparing this publication, the authors have used the best and most current information. However, neither they nor the OSU Extension Service can assume any liability for the process outlined here.

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