

# Nutrient Discharge Control and Agriculture

A photograph of a herd of black and white dairy cows in a dirt lot. The cows are standing in a line, some looking towards the camera. In the background, there are mountains under a cloudy sky. The image is framed by green geometric shapes on the left and right sides.

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# Colorado State Regulation 81

- ▶ CAFO Regs
  - ▶ Large and Medium Dairies and Feedlots
  - ▶ Ability to reclassify smaller operations if necessary
- ▶ Optional Discharge Permit
  - ▶ Comes with additional requirements
  - ▶ Gives protection in the advent of unusual weather events

# Colorado State Regulation 85

- ▶ Nitrogen and Phosphorus discharge controls
- ▶ Sources
  - ▶ Agricultural discharges and other non-point sources
    - ▶ Voluntary controls now
    - ▶ Will be re-evaluated in 2022
  - ▶ Wastewater Treatment Plants (Point Source)
    - ▶ Smaller facilities not controlled
    - ▶ Effluent limits have delayed implementation until 2027.
  - ▶ Reg 85 requires monitoring of surface waters
    - ▶ Will inform the need for mandatory controls for Agriculture



# Nutrients

## Algal blooms may result in:

- ➔ Reduced water clarity & dissolved O<sub>2</sub>
  - > harm to aquatic animals and plants
- ➔ Cyanotoxins and microcystins
  - > dangerous to animals and humans
- ➔ Reduced recreation & tourism
  - > Visually unappealing, reduces use
- ➔ Impediments to irrigation
  - > Clogged screens and pumps, high pH

