

# Required Agricultural Practices for Equine Facilities in Vermont

~an FAQ Factsheet



Which horse activities count as “farming”?

“The raising, feeding, or management of ...equines owned or boarded by the farmer, including training, showing, and providing instruction and lessons in riding, training, and the management of equines”

What kinds of things am I required to do?

The RAP Standards cover a range of practices including revegetating stream banks, appropriately storing manure, and excluding horses from stream access in high use areas. Contact your Conservation District for help sorting through these requirements.



Why do the RAPs matter?



When a farm isn't properly cared for, soil can heavily erode and both sediment and horse manure can enter our streams and rivers. These pollutants introduce e. coli into our favorite swimming holes and contribute to overgrowth of harmful, toxin-producing algae.

# Steps Towards Implementing the RAPs

1

## Determine Farm Size



### Non-RAP farm

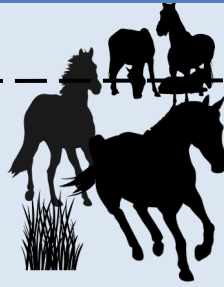
<4 horses AND  
<4 acres of land



### Small Farm Operation (SFO)

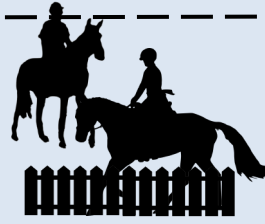
4-39 horses AND  
4+ acres of land

~  
> \$2000 Annual Gross Income  
OR filed 1040F in last 2 years



### Certified Small Farm Operation (CSFO)

40-149 horses AND  
10+ acres of land



### Permitted Medium Farm Operation (MFO)

150-499 horses



### Permitted Large Farm Operation (LFO)

500+ horses

## Review Which RAPs Apply

2

Non-RAP farm	Small Farm Operation (SFO)	Certified Small Farm Operation (CSFO)	Permitted Medium Farm Operation (MFO)	Permitted Large Farm Operation (LFO)
Must comply with RAP Standards*	Must comply with RAP Standards			
*if found to be causing adverse water quality impacts		Annual Self-Certification with the VT Agency of Agriculture	Annual Reporting with the VT Agency of Agriculture	
		Farm Inspections Create and follow recommendations in a 590 Nutrient Management Plan Earn and Report 4 Water Quality Training Credits every 5 years		

3

## Implement Standards and Practices

### Read about the RAP Standards

[agriculture.vermont.gov/rap](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/rap)



### Request Help

Free or low-cost assistance is available from your local Conservation District to identify gaps where RAP standards aren't yet met on your farm, and coordinate financial assistance to implement the RAP standards.

### Find Water Quality Training Opportunities

[agriculture.vermont.gov/rap](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/rap)

[www.vacd.org/rapquiz](http://www.vacd.org/rapquiz)



### Symbol Key

"<" means fewer/less than

">" means greater than

