

# Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets Water Quality Division FY2019 Inspection and Enforcement Summary

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFMM) has developed a comprehensive approach to the regulation of farms in the State in order to best protect water resources. The approach to regulating Vermont farms addresses all farm sizes, providing size-specific regulatory oversight ranging from Small Farm Operations (SFOs) and Certified Small Farm Operations (CSFOs) subject to regulation under the Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs) Rule, to Medium Farm Operations (MFOs) regulated under the State's MFO General Permit, to Large Farm Operations (LFOs) regulated under a LFO Individual Permit.

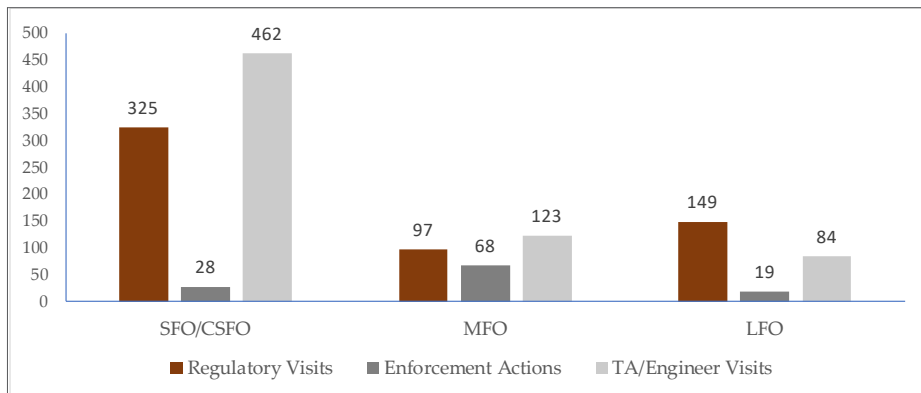
This factsheet summarizes data from the VAAFMM Agricultural Water Quality Enforcement Program State Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) Annual Report. In FY2019, the Enforcement Program recorded 571 water quality compliance visits and 115 enforcement actions for alleged violations on 98 farms. Two additional enforcement actions were issued to two custom applicators for violations of the RAPs.

## SUMMARY OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS AND REFERRALS 2016-2019

YEAR	INVESTIGATIONS & INSPECTIONS	FARMS RECEIVING ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS	REFERRALS TO ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE	REFERRALS TO AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
2016*	379	38	1	1
2017*	505	82	2	18
2018	652	101	7	32
2019	571	98	6	38

\*Data reported for 2016 and 2017 reflect calendar year reporting, 2018-2019 data reflects State Fiscal Year data.

## FISCAL YEAR 2019 FARM VISITS AND ENFORCEMENT BY FARM SIZE



## MONETARY PENALTIES ASSOCIATED WITH ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

In FY19, VAAFMM issued 115 enforcement actions to farms. Of these, 17 were Notice of Violations (NOVs) which assessed associated monetary penalties totaling \$30,000.

VAAFMM referred several cases to the Vermont Attorney General's Office (AGO) for civil enforcement in FY19 and the AGO is working to obtain corrective action and monetary penalties. A further 38 farms were referred to the Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation (ANR DEC) for suspected point source discharges to surface water. For penalty amounts related to these cases, please contact ANR DEC.



VAAFMM water quality farm specialist assesses areas adjacent to barn during an inspection.

**34 LFOs**  
**114 MFOs**  
**310 CSFOs**  
 NUMBERS OF OPERATIONS OF VARYING SIZES  
 PERMITTED WITH VAAFMM

**91 APPLICATORS**  
 CERTIFIED CUSTOM MANURE APPLICATORS

**1240 FARM VISITS**  
 FOR WATER QUALITY INSPECTION AND  
 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

**115 ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS**  
 ASSOCIATED WITH 179 ALLEGED VIOLATIONS



VAAFMM water quality farm specialist measures the distance of an annual crop field perennial buffer during an inspection.