



Oil Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Program: Information for Farmers

This fact sheet will assist you, as a farmer, in understanding your obligations under the SPCC Program.

What is SPCC?

The goal of the SPCC program is to prevent oil spills into waters of the United States and adjoining shorelines. Oil spills can cause injuries to people and damage to the environment. A key element of this program calls for farmers and other facilities to have an oil spill prevention plan, called an **SPCC Plan**. These Plans can help farmers prevent oil spills which can damage water resources needed for farming operations.

What is considered a farm under SPCC?

Under SPCC, a farm is: "a facility on a tract of land devoted to the production of crops or raising of animals, including fish, which produced and sold, or normally would have produced and sold, \$1,000 or more of agricultural products during a year."

Is my farm covered by SPCC?

SPCC applies to a farm which:

- Stores, transfers, uses, or consumes **oil or oil products**, such as diesel fuel, gasoline, lube oil, hydraulic oil, adjuvant oil, crop oil, vegetable oil, or animal fat; **and**
- Stores more than **1,320 US gallons** in aboveground containers or more than **42,000 US gallons** in completely buried containers; **and**
- Could **reasonably be expected to discharge oil to waters** of the US or adjoining shorelines, such as interstate waters, intrastate lakes, rivers, and streams.

If your farm meets all of these criteria, then your farm is covered by SPCC.

TIPS:

* Count only containers of oil that have a storage capacity of 55 US gallons and above.

* Adjacent or non-adjacent parcels, either leased or owned, may be considered separate facilities for SPCC purposes. Containers on separate parcels (that the farmer identifies as separate facilities based on how they are operated) do not need to be added together in determining whether the 1,320-gallon applicability threshold is met.

If my farm is covered by SPCC, what should I do?

The SPCC program requires you to prepare and implement an SPCC Plan. If you **already have a Plan**, maintain it. **If you do not have a Plan**, you should prepare and implement one. Many farmers will need to have their Plan certified by a Professional Engineer ("PE"). However, you may be eligible to self-certify your amended Plan if:

- Your farm has a total oil storage capacity between 1,320 and 10,000 gallons in aboveground containers, and the farm has a good spill history (as described in the SPCC rule), you may prepare and self-certify your own Plan. (However, if you decide to use certain alternate measures allowed by the federal SPCC Rule, you will need a PE.)
- Your farm has storage capacity of more than 10,000 gallons, or has had an oil spill you may need to prepare an SPCC Plan **certified by a PE**.

TIP: If you are eligible to self certify your Plan, and no aboveground container at your farm is greater than 5,000 gallons in capacity, then you may use the Plan template that is available to download from EPA's Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/oem/content/spcc/tier1temp.htm>