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COMMERCIAL FARM PFAS WATER TREATMENT PROGRAM

Currently, the most effective means for providing clean water where groundwater is impacted by PFAS is through installation of an on-farm water filtration system. This technology removes PFAS chemicals to safe drinking water standards, currently set at 20 parts per trillion (ppt) by state law. The size and scope of the system needed depends on daily water usage and the level of contamination. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) is prepared to help cover the costs of these systems for farm operations, plus yearly maintenance and repair parts, if a filtration system is deemed necessary. Alternative options will also be considered as necessary.

What are the requirements?



1. You must be a commercial farm that has DACF-confirmed unsafe levels of PFAS contamination.
 - a. A water test result of 20 ppt or higher for wells servicing the farm or fields **and**
 - b. One or more samples of farm products showing PFAS exceeding current action levels or at levels deemed of concern by the Maine CDC.

What costs are covered?



1. The installation of a water filtration system of appropriate size and design for the farm. DACF will directly contract with experienced water treatment consultants to ensure that an appropriately sized and designed system is selected and installed.
2. Ongoing water testing and maintenance costs, including replacement parts, until such time as DACF funding is not available.
 - a. For installations done prior to DACF involvement, reimbursement is possible but will have maximum limits.

What needs to be submitted?



1. If the system will be installed by DACF:
 - a. DACF will communicate with the farm regarding their water usage and other specific factors.
 - b. Once a filter system and plan are confirmed, a Water Filtration Agreement that establishes expectations between DACF and the farmer, must be signed and returned to DACF prior to system installation.
2. If DACF is reimbursing for a system installed previously:
 - a. All paid receipts for the system, past maintenance fees, and replacement parts.
 - b. A completed [State of Maine Vendor Authorization form](#).



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What about residential water?



1. DEP is the agency working with residential water systems. Contact pfas.dep@maine.gov.
2. If a water system services both a residence and a farm, DACF and DEP will work in conjunction to determine an appropriate system and may jointly cover the associated expenses.

DACF reserves the right to not pay for the installation of a water treatment system when the size, scope, maintenance, and cost exceed, in DACF's professional judgment, the ultimate effectiveness and benefit of the system. In these instances, DACF can help investigate other options, which could include siting and drilling a new well on the property if determined there is a high likelihood the new well would not have similar contamination. Payment for new wells may be covered by DACF's Farm Viability Fund.

DACF reserves the right to amend program parameters and criteria at any time. Commercial Farm Water Treatment Program payments are subject to the availability of DACF's PFAS funding.

Contact DACF staff at pfas.dacf@maine.gov

