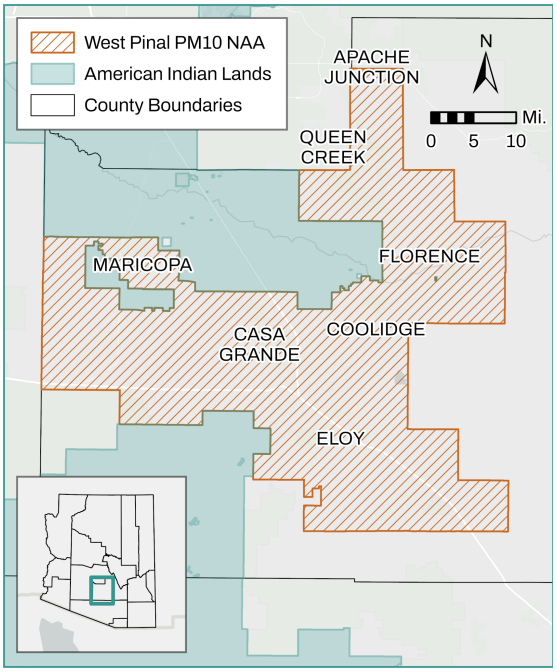
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

FACT SHEET
NOVEMBER 2026

NEW AgBMP REPORTING REQUIREMENTS IN EFFECT FOR THE WEST PINAL SERIOUS PM_{10} NONATTAINMENT AREA

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The Agricultural Best Management Practices (AgBMP) Program for the **West Pinal Serious PM_{10} Nonattainment Area (NAA)** aims to reduce particulate matter pollution to improve air quality and protect public health throughout the region.



What is PM_{10}? Particulate matter 10 micrometers or smaller consists of fine airborne dust, soil, and soot particles—roughly one-seventh the width of a single human hair.

Where does it come from? PM_{10} pollution originates from several sources, including construction, industrial operations, agriculture, on-road and off-road mobile sources, and windblown dust from unpaved roads and open land. Within agricultural areas, these emissions are primarily driven by soil disturbance from tilling and harvesting, vehicle and equipment travel on unpaved surfaces, wind erosion on exposed fields, and livestock movement.

Health Impact: Because these particles are microscopic, they penetrate deep into the lungs and can enter the bloodstream, triggering respiratory issues (such as asthma and bronchitis), aggravating cardiovascular disease, and posing heightened risks to agricultural workers, children, and elderly residents.

WHO MUST COMPLY?

The **new AgBMP reporting requirements** apply only to qualifying agricultural operations, including both crop operations and animal facilities (dairies and feedlots), which are **located within the West Pinal Serious PM_{10} NAA** and meet the following thresholds:

- **Crop Operations:** Commercial farmers operating **10 or more contiguous acres** of agricultural land.
- **Dairy Operations:** Commercial dairy operations with **more than 50 dairy cattle**.
- **Beef Feedlots:** Commercial beef feedlots with **more than 50 beef cattle**.

WHAT IS CHANGING?

To address ongoing air quality challenges in the **West Pinal Serious PM_{10} NAA** and meet federal Clean Air Act requirements, reporting your AgBMPs to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is shifting from *upon request* to **mandatory annual reporting**, due by **March 31st** each year **beginning March 31, 2027**.

Additionally, the requirement for commercial farmers to complete and submit the periodic 3-year Best Management Practices survey to the Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) **has been removed**.

These changes became effective on **April 27, 2026.**[1]
bit.ly/AAR_AgBMP

Implementing and reporting your AgBMPs to ADEQ **helps raise awareness, increase compliance, and measurably reduce airborne dust** across Pinal County. Your continued participation in this AgBMP program is crucial, particularly given the area's **serious nonattainment status**, and helps reduce the potential need for more stringent regulations under the federal Clean Air Act.

[1] Arizona Administrative Registrar (A.A.R.) Volume 32, Issue 21 published May 22, 2026

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SUBMISSION PROCESS BY OPERATION TYPE

CROP OPERATIONS

To simplify reporting for growers and minimize the administrative burden, ADEQ, the AgBMP Committee, and AZDA are developing an integrated submission process:

- **Regulated Grower Permit (Pesticide Permit Holders):** When you apply for or renew your **Pesticide Grower Permit** through AZDA, you will receive the AgBMP form to complete and return alongside your permit application. AZDA will forward your completed form directly to ADEQ.
- **Non-Permit / 2-Year Renewal Holders:** For crop producers who do not hold a Pesticide Grower Permit or who selected a 2-year permit renewal period, you must still report your AgBMPs annually. AZDA or ADEQ will provide you with an AgBMP Form to complete and return every year.
- You can also access the form online at azdeq.gov/AgriculturalDust.

DAIRIES & FEEDLOTS

- **Livestock operators (dairies and beef cattle feedlots):** You will submit your annual AgBMP reporting forms **directly to ADEQ** by **March 31st**.
- **Where to Find Forms:** AgBMP reporting forms are available on azdeq.gov/AgriculturalDust.
- **Submissions can be sent via email or mail:**
  - **Email:** AgbmpForms@azdeq.gov
  - **Mail:** Air Permitting and Compliance
    Arizona Dept. of Environmental Quality
    1110 W. Washington St., Suite #160
    Phoenix, AZ 85007

Please Note: For both crop operations and animal operations, a single AgBMP Form may be used to cover multiple operations located within the NAA.

HOW TO STAY INFORMED

Sign up to receive ADEQ AgBMP email updates:
bit.ly/Subscribe_AgBMP

Questions? Please contact:

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