An Educational Tool in Environmental Stewardship

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In the advent of the 1999 Animal Feeding Operation (AFO)/ Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) rule, it has become a necessity to be diligent in recordkeeping. The rule requires that certain records be kept for land applications and makes restrictions on when those applications may be made. In addition, poultry producers are required to have QCP (Qualified Credentialed Professional) inspectors inspect their WMSP (waste management system plan) and CNMP (comprehensive nutrient management plan) ensuring that it meets or exceeds NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) standards. Therefore, a system was needed which would simplify the recordkeeping process and reduce time and paperwork for both the producer and the inspector. A handbook was developed to aid in keeping records for environmentally sound use of broiler litter. It provides a central location for all records dealing with nutrient management, and the resource materials needed for sound production practices.

The handbook is divided into twelve sections, each which are pertinent to environmental stewardship. Sections one through four are for records (soil test results, weather data, litter/dry manure solids clean-out/transfer records, litter/dry manure solids/nutrient field application records, Alabama phosphorus index worksheet, and the poultry litter/animal manure by-product responsibility/liability transfer form, disposal logs and records). Section five is to keep all correspondence from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. Section six is to maintain all inspection reports. Section seven is to maintain all continuing education papers and certificates. The next section is to keep the Nutrient Management Plan. The remaining sections contain a copy of the Alabama AFO/CAFO rule, USDA/NRCS Conservation Practice Standard - Nutrient Management, USDA/NRCS Conservation Practice Standard – Prescribed Grazing. The last section contains various publications on nutrient management, best management practices, Intensive cropping systems, and environmental stewardship.