

Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries and
Natural Resource Conservation Service
Joint QCP Annual Inspection
Cost Reimbursement Program

The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries in cooperation with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has implemented a program to compensate all CAFO owners for the majority of the cost for the annual inspection which is required by Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM). ADEM has been very cooperative in delaying the mandate for these annual inspections until a program could be developed. The program will allow for the CAFO owner to complete a voucher which the Qualified Credentialed Professional (QCP) will have when he or she performs the inspection. The owner will then be reimbursed up to \$200 for the cost of the annual inspection. NRS and the Department of Agriculture and Industries will provide the funding for this plan and the Department of Agriculture and Industries will administer the program. Commissioner Ron Sparks was instrumental in wanting to provide assistance to all CAFO owners who have had this extra cost added to their operating budget. Alabama Poultry & Egg Association and the Alabama Farmers Federation were also very involved and worked diligently on this project. The annual inspections will be required for all CAFO owners starting with those that have registration notices due beginning July 1, 2006.

A meeting was held on August 9, 2006 at the Department of Agriculture and Industries with all QCPs that had previously performed annual inspections. Also, in attendance were representatives from ADEM, NRCS, and Auburn University to discuss issues and answer questions.

The reimbursement vouchers are issued to the QCP who performs the inspection. It is a four part form with the top copy going to the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (ADAI), the second copy to the CAFO owner, the third copy can also be sent to ADAI who will forward it to the state NRCS office and the fourth copy can be retained by the QCP. A copy of the inspection form and a copy of the invoice from the QCP for his charges must be attached to the reimbursement voucher. It is a necessity that we get the CAFO owner's correct tax ID number and correct tax ID name. The ADAI will process these vouchers and a check will be written to the CAFO owner.

Any questions about this program should be referred to Ray Hilburn at the Department of Agriculture and Industries at 334-240-7213.