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# A Quarterly Poultry News Update

**Fall 1998**

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Marshall County Office

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## SOME DEFINITIONS YOU SHOULD KNOW

### AFO – ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATION

A lot or facility where animals have been, are, or will be stabled, confined, gathered, or concentrated and fed or maintained for a total of 45 days or more in any 12-month period, and the animal confinement areas do not sustain crops, vegetation, forage growth, or post-harvest residues in the normal growing season.

### CAFO – CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATION

An animal feeding operation (AFO) with more than the following number(s) and type(s) of animals:

1. 1,000 slaughter or feeder cattle
2. 700 mature dairy cattle (whether milked or dry cows)
3. 2,500 swine each weighing over 55 pounds
4. 500 horses
5. 10,000 sheep or lambs
6. 55,000 turkeys
7. 125,000 laying hens, broilers, or other poultry
8. 5,000 ducks
9. 1,000 animal units of any other type/size

or which has been designated by the Director of ADEM as a significant contributor or potentially significant contributor of pollution.

### CERTIFIED ANIMAL WASTE VENDOR (CAWV)

A CAWV is any person certified by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, ADEM, or another agency in cooperation with ADEM to accept liability and responsibility for AFO waste, obtain required continuing education, keep required records, and effectively manage, handle, transport, store, and properly land apply AFO waste in a manner that meets or exceeds NRCS technical standards and guidelines, manage animal mortality in a manner that meets or exceeds ADAI requirements, prevents discharges, and ensures protection of groundwater and surface water quality in accordance with the requirements of the Alabama Water Pollution Control Act, the national Clean Water Act, and related regulations. The CAWV is responsible, in cooperation with the AFO owner/operator generating the waste/wastewater or land owner(s) receiving the waste/wastewater, for ensuring the suitability of each site prior to applying waste/wastewater.

This includes proper timing of waste application, proper calibration of equipment, ensuring that required waste/wastewater characterization and soil testing have been properly performed, ensuring that required inspections are properly performed, ensuring that required sampling of any discharges are properly performed, and ensuring that the land owner(s) or others receiving the waste/wastewater are informed of the requirements NPDES permitting.

### WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM PLAN

A comprehensive plan which meets or exceeds USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) technical standards and guidelines, NRCS Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan guidelines, and applicable requirements of the Clean Water Act and prepared by an authorized NRCS representative or a qualified credentialed professional approved by ADEM. The plan shall detail management of the entire facility and associated areas which includes storage, handling, transport, and disposal/utilization of wastes, wastewater, waste product, dead or diseased animals, general housekeeping BMPs, nutrient management, and land application of wastes. The nutrient management portion of the plan shall include an assessment of the land application site; a description of the land use, cropping sequence, and management of crops; nutrient budget which accounts for all nutrient use; timing of applications, buffer requirements, erosion, and runoff control practices; and if the site is not owned by the registrant, a signed lease to use the land, a detailed bill of sale for the waste, a valid contract with a Certified Animal Waste Vendor (CAWV), or a signed written land use agreement. The site assessment shall include a soil map, soil rating for leaching, soil infiltration rates, and location of streams, sinkholes, and wells. The nutrient budget shall account for all available nutrients applied on the site and shall include soil test results, and application rates. A detailed map of the application site showing location of fields, buffer zones, streams, wells, sinkholes, and other pertinent information will be part of the plan. *(Continued on Back)*

“the scoop on litter”

(Continued from front)

### **NPDES - NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM**

The national permitting system for the control of and discharge of pollutants administered by EPA through state agencies. In Alabama NPDES is administered by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM). The animal feeding operations (AFO) and concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO) rules and regulations are part of NPDES.

#### **\*\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT EVENTS\*\*\*\*\***

##### **AFO/CAFO RULE HEARING ON DECEMBER 10**

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management will have its final hearing on the proposed new NPDES/AFO/CAFO rules on Thursday, December 10, 1998, at 10:00 a.m. in the Hearing Room at the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, 1751 Cong. W.L. Dickinson Drive, Montgomery, Alabama. The new rule will affect animal feeding operations (AFO) statewide. Copies of the proposed rules and summaries of reasons supporting adoption are available on the internet at [www.adem.state.al.us/rules](http://www.adem.state.al.us/rules).

##### **ALABAMA CROP MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION TO OFFER NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT TRAINING**

As part of its regular, annual meeting in Auburn on February 3-4, 1999, the Alabama Crop Management Association will offer training in nutrient management with animal wastes. The program will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Auburn University Hotel and Conference Center with national speakers discussing policy issues surrounding nutrient management. In the afternoon, Alabama Cooperative Extension Specialists and USDA-NRCS state staff will provide an in-depth workshop on how to prepare a "Waste Management System Plan" that meets the proposed Alabama AFO/CAFO regulations and NRCS technical guidelines. This training is very important for Certified Crop Advisors (CCA) who wish to do nutrient management plans for their clients. Continuing Education Units will be awarded. Preregistration is desirable, but on-site registration will be available. For more information or to register contact:

Mr. Ken Carr, Executive Director  
Alabama Crop Management  
P.O. Box 6  
Headland, AL 36345  
Phone: (334) 794-8697  
FAX: (334) 794-4400

*-Charles Mitchell,  
Extension Agronomist-Soils*

### **BE A RESPONSIBLE POULTRY PRODUCER**

The concentration of the poultry industry has resulted in the production of large volumes of by-products including: manure, farm mortalities, hatchery, and processing plant wastes that require daily attention. The poultry industry has responded well in objectively evaluating economically and environmentally sound management principles in dealing with by-product utilization as opposed to disposal. Many of the so-called wastes, if managed and processed appropriately, have the potential for increasing the economic profitability of the poultry operation. (Continued next column)

Non-point source pollution has become a major environmental problem in many areas of the United States, especially near intensive confined livestock and poultry operations where wastes are being applied frequently to land at very high rates. Increases in human population and changing human diets have demanded rapid increases in livestock and poultry production, and most of these increases are taking place in areas containing many intensive confined production enterprises. The broiler chicken industry in the Southeastern United States produces an estimated 7.5 million tons of litter annually. Broiler house waste production in this area is increasing by more than one-half million tons annually. In order for livestock and poultry expansion to be compatible with an increasing human population and not adversely affect the environment, new and innovative waste management systems must be developed and adopted by industry and grower alike.

Disposal of poultry by-products has been identified by the poultry industry as a priority. Poultry producers must plan and manage their operations in a way that is safe for the environment. Poultry wastes, if improperly managed, can cause problems in the environment and can create hazards to human and animal health. The producer must ensure that all of the manure from his population of birds can be spread at acceptable rates on the land available according to best management practices and nutrient management plans.

*--John P. Blake, PhD  
Extension Poultry Scientist*

### **NRCS Can Answer Your Questions about Poultry Manure and Dead Bird Management**

**Q** Who is NRCS and how can they help a poultry producer?

**A** The USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers management planning for disposal of dead birds and manure handling plus design and cost estimates for structures.

**Q** How should I dispose of my dead birds?

**A** Rendering, composting, or incineration are common methods of dead bird disposal. NRCS can assist in designing a dead bird compostor or other approved disposal system.

**Q** Do I need a place to store litter?

**A** Yes, if you use it on farm. Storage is needed when:

- crops are not actively growing (usually a 3 - month period in winter).
- soils are too wet to drive on.
- rainfall is likely to wash litter off fields.
- litter is used for cattle feed.
- litter is used in a dead bird compostor.
- other farming demands delay land application.



*For additional information or assistance, call  
your local county agent or soil conservationist*

*--F. H. Wood,  
County Extension Coordinator*