

THE ALABAMA CERTIFIED ANIMAL WASTE VENDOR PROGRAM

The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries has developed a Waste Vendor Certification program in an effort to help managers of animal feeding operations meet present and future regulations with respect to proper disposal of animal waste. Proper management of waste to prevent contamination of surface and ground water is a necessity if we expect to continue expanding animal production in our state.

All Animal Feeding Operations will soon be required to have a waste management system plan that meets or exceeds Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) technical standards and guidelines. Operations meeting the criteria that designate them Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations must have a comprehensive animal waste management system plan and register their operations with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) through their local Soil and Water Conservation District. The ADEM rule will require each producer to keep detailed records and ensure proper application of waste on and off his farm.

A Waste Vendor is considered to be a person or persons in the business of providing a land application service that removes waste from the premises of an animal feeding operation. A certified vendor would be one who has made application for certification, attended required training sessions, agreed to maintain records, provide reports, obtain annual re-certification and pledged to provide professional services and be diligent in protecting the environment and the health of the general public.

If a Certified Waste Vendor is utilized for removal and management of waste products that leave the operator's premises, the vendor is responsible for records and proper application.

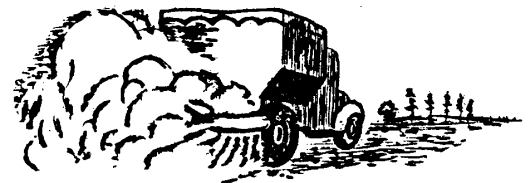
While an operator is not obligated to use a Certified Vendor under the proposed ADEM rules, those who *do* can significantly reduce paperwork and have certain legal protections.

The Certified Waste Vendor program will become effective in 1998 after applicants have received training, met requirements, and received a Certified Vendor Certificate. Any person who removes waste from an animal feeding operation accepts liability for the proper management of this waste and is encouraged to attend this training, whether or not they desire to be certified.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION

- ◆ **Complete application form and forward to Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (by fax or mail)**
- ◆ **Attend training sessions developed by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System**
- ◆ **Maintain appropriate records and provide reports as requested by Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries**
- ◆ **Meet requirements for annual re-certification**
- ◆ **Provide professional services and be diligent in protecting the environment and the health of the general public**

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“the scoop on litter”

TRAINING OF VENDORS

Alabama Cooperative Extension System professionals will coordinate training sessions designed to qualify animal waste vendors to meet requirements for certification by the Department of Agriculture and Industries. This is a voluntary program with no certification fee. **If you plan to attend a training session you *must* pre-register** (Registration form is enclosed).

Three educational training sessions are scheduled:

- 1. South Alabama (Troy area)**
– Tuesday, June 23, 4:00 p.m.
- 2. Northeast Alabama (Albertville area)**
– Thursday, June 25, 4:00 p.m.
- 3. Northwest Alabama (Russellville area)**
– Tuesday, August 18, 4:00 p.m.

A wide range of topics will ensure that vendors are informed of proper management techniques for livestock waste. Some of the topics planned for presentation are:

- Spreader Truck Calibration
- Nutrient Management Plans
- Litter and Manure Storage and Handling
- Land Application.

Each vendor who completes the entire training course and agrees to comply with program guidelines will be issued a certificate. Annual re-certification will require attendance at an approved training session or meeting where instruction in waste management is presented.

Certified vendors will be placed on a mailing list maintained by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries and will receive program updates and information by mail.

The Department of Agriculture will revoke the certification of any vendor who violates the requirements governing this program.

REGULATION OF VENDORS

Veterinarians and Animal Health Technicians employed by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries and under the direction of the State Veterinarian, will monitor the Certified Vendor program in connection with their usual duties of inspecting facilities for compliance with sanitary operation, disease control, and disposal of dead animals. These employees will inspect records of vendors, discuss procedures, evaluate the effectiveness of practices used by vendors, and report deficiencies.

Vendors will be required to maintain the following records:

- 1. Equipment calibration data**

- 2. Date of waste removal**
- 3. Amount of waste moved**
- 4. Location of farm and specific field on which the waste was applied**
- 5. Rate of waste applied per acre**

Technicians will make routine inspections of fields where waste is applied and, if appropriate, collect soil samples and conduct other tests.



COMPOSTER MANAGEMENT

With the outlawing of burial pits, composting is the most economical and time efficient means of dead bird disposal. But like all other parts of your farm operation, it requires some management to operate as it should.

The basic technique of proper dead bird composting is well established. But it's not a drop in and forget it system. Some adjustments to the process based on your observations may be necessary.

If it's a mess, that's usually a clear indication of too much moisture. Turning the compost pile will eliminate some moisture. And in some cases the mixing in of dry litter to soak up some of the moisture may be necessary.

If birds are not composting properly but there is obviously no excess of moisture, then it's too dry. Turn the compost pile adding a little water, sparingly. If there is a failure in composting, too wet is a far more common problem than too dry.

If there is a little seepage around the edges creating a fly problem, then you're layering birds too close to the edge of the composter – back off a little.

Be aware of seasonal changes that might alter water need or other minor adjustments for proper composting. Anyone can get in a mess occasionally. But if your composter stays in a mess, you're not managing it with observation and adjustments. You're trying to use it like a disposal pit. In time, poorly managed composters will probably go the way of disposal pits.



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

*F. H. Wood,
County Extension Coordinator*