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CAWV RE-REGISTRATION TIME!

When the Certified Animal Waste Vendor program was started in 1999 under the Alabama AFO/CAFO rules, it was decided that certification would be good for 2 years. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System has tried to provide new and innovative training programs every two years to keep up with the growing needs of Alabama's CAWVs.

Beginning early 2005, CAWVs were issued pocket cards with a 31 December 2006 certification expiration date. CAWVs registering in 2006 were issued pocket cards with a 31 December 2007 certification expiration date. ALL CAWVs REGISTERED IN 2005 MUST BECOME RE-CERTIFIED BY 31 JANUARY 2007.

This re-certification will be available over the Internet (WebCT) just as the initial certification was handled beginning 2 years ago. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System website for the initial CAWV training has been expanded to allow addition of a CAWV recertification option while still offering the initial training and testing for first-time WebCT CAWV registration. The recertification option will be in place by January 1, 2007.

The recertification option (training & testing) will have 2 parts, phosphorus index and the skeleton plan concept and should take less than 2 hours to complete. The purpose of this is to provide additional focused training for re-certifying CAWVs to equip them to better serve their customers who may not have a nutrient management plan for using litter. This focused training will also provide continuing educational units for CAFO owner/operators. Individuals without an expiring CAWV pocket card will have to go through the initial training for first-time WebCT CAWV registration.

Ray Hilburn, AI Department of Ag & Industries
Ted Tyson, Extension Biosystems Engineer, AU

CAWV INTERNET SITE DIRECTIONS

*Local Alabama Cooperative Extension Offices may be the most convenient public location for WebCT access. Go to <http://www.aces.edu>, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System homepage (Bookmark or add this page to your Favorites for easy future access, there is a lot of good information here). Then click on **Agriculture** from the menu listed on the left-hand side of this page. Then click on **Alabama Animal Waste Management**. Then click on **CAWV Certified Animal***

Waste Vendor Homepage from the menu listed on the left-hand side of this page. From the **CAWV Certified Animal Waste Vendor Homepage**, click on **A WebCT Based CAWV Training & Education Verification Site**. From the second paragraph on this page click [CAWV Re-Certification](#).

Ted Tyson, Extension Biosystems Engineer, AU

BEDDING MATERIAL SHORTAGE

Increasing demand for peanut hulls for fire ant bait and wood by-products for boiler fuel and horticultural uses has decreased the availability of these materials for use as bedding in poultry houses. At the same time, the cost has increased dramatically further cutting into the profits of producers and the vendors who haul the shavings. Some relief is in sight. A new facility in Goshen (Pike County, Alabama), Southern Alabama Wood Products LLC, is producing pine shavings from trees purchased from local pulpwood suppliers. Shavings are loaded directly into 53-foot truck beds for hauling to the broiler farm. See the December 2006 issue of *COOPERATIVE FARMING NEWS* for more information.

Ray Hilburn, AI Department of Ag & Industries
Ted Tyson, Extension Biosystems Engineer, AU

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

January 1, 2007. On-line recertification available on web at <http://www.aces.edu/dept/aawm/CAWV.php>

January 31, 2007. Last date for CAWVs with pocket cards expiring 31 December, 2006 to complete on-line recertification to keep their CAWV certification active with no certification break.

QCP PROGRAM OPERATES SMOOTH

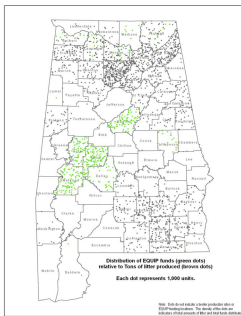
Some Alabama CAWVs may also be Qualified Credentialed Professionals (QCPs) under the ADEM AFO/CAFO Rule. A QCP is qualified to do annual inspections of registered Confined Animal Feed Operations (CAFOs) to assure environmental compliance. The owner/operator of the CAFO must pay the QCP directly for his/her efforts. This year, the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (ADAI) with half funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is offering financial reimbursement of up to \$200 to owner operators for this required service. The local NRCS / District Soil & Water Conservation Office can help provide a list of QCPs in the area. Since the program started in July,

2006, 57 CAFOs have been reimbursed for a total of \$10,160. This is much less than was expected.

Ray Hilburn, Al Department of Ag & Industries
Perry Oakes, State Conservation Engineer, NRCS

POULTRY LITTER DISTRIBUTION PROJECT

In 2003, the Alabama office of USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service began administering a cost-share program to help growers in non-poultry producing regions of the state use poultry litter. This program used national Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funds that were administered locally. The funds went to the farms receiving litter in the form of incentive payments for three years to help cover transportation costs for the litter. To be eligible, the receiving farm must not be a traditional user of poultry litter and must implement a nutrient management plan. This program has been particularly successful in 2006 at moving large amounts of poultry litter from intensive poultry producing areas to selected counties where the litter is needed. The following figure shows that growers in Marengo, Hale, Perry, and Dallas counties in the West-central Alabama Black Belt region, and Shelby County in Central Alabama have taken advantage of this program. No records are kept of litter that was transported outside of the EQIP Program.



Charles Mitchell, Extension Soils Specialist, AU

BROILER LITTER PRODUCTION ESTIMATES

Environmental concerns, concentrated production areas, regulatory considerations, etc. are all legitimate concerns and provide the poultry producer with the task and challenge of insuring that his litter is properly handled, stored and applied as a valuable source of fertilizer. Estimating the amount of litter produced by broilers has been difficult since type of bird, market weight, number of flocks, field conditions, time of year, and litter moisture are variables that must be considered. Unfortunately, the bird is a biological system and a certain amount of variation, and unpredictability, is often interjected into the equation. Mechanical systems are much more reliable and predictable as compared to any biological system.

Several years ago, field tests conducted in Biosystems Engineering at Auburn University in cooperation with Alabama Cooperative Extension System County Agents determined the amount of litter generated on a typical Alabama broiler farm. In this setting, a 4.4 lb broiler was grown in 40 by 500 foot broiler houses where 2.5 inches of pine shavings were used as the

bedding material. Additional shavings were placed in the brood area of the house between flocks.

In this field test, a total of eight broiler flocks were grown on the bedding material during the course of slightly over one year. Amount of litter obtained from a single test house was weighed during total clean out to the ground. Litter removed between flocks with a litter conditioner was also accounted for. A total of 502,600 pounds (251.3 tons) of broiler litter was removed from the house. Average moisture content of the litter was 19.2% and average values for N, P₂O₅ and K₂O in the litter were 4.16, 4.24, and 2.93%, respectively, on a dry matter basis. There were a total of 221,160 broilers reared to market weight for eight consecutive flocks. Floor space density averaged 0.72 ft²/bird. A total of 973,104 pounds of live weight was produced. Based on the amount of live weight, an average of .52 pounds of litter was produced per pound of live weight. *Alabama broiler growers have typically used an average value of 0.5 to 0.7 lbs of litter produced per pound of live weight as a rule of thumb.* Results also indicated that the litter weighed 31 lbs/ft³ based on these conditions. That equates to 837 lbs/yd³.

Producers are now faced with mandatory nutrient and waste management planning as a result of AFO/CAFO regulations. Information obtained from this field test can be useful in the preparation of a nutrient management plan or for sizing a litter storage structure.

Obtaining the fertilizer value of litter is another variable that must be dealt with. It depends on the type of bedding material used, the number of flocks grown between house clean-outs, moisture content and other factors. Producers are required to sample their litter and have it analyzed for nutrient content at least once in three years, depending on location. A survey of several hundred samples submitted to the Auburn University Soil Testing Laboratory has yielded average values for N, P₂O₅ and K₂O in the litter as 3.10, 2.77, and 2.04%, respectively. Ranges for samples were 2.1 to 6.0% for nitrogen, 1.4 to 8.9% for phosphorus, and 0.8 to 6.2 for potash. *Such a wide range supports the need to test poultry litter samples from each farm.* However, producers with no testing history can begin land application assuming an average analysis of 3-3-2% or 60-60-40 pounds of N, P₂O₅ and K₂O per ton, respectively, for fresh litter applied directly from the house.

Poultry manure is an excellent resource that should be used in a similar manner as commercial fertilizers. And the best advice that can be offered to the poultry producer is to estimate and record the amount of litter that is being spread or moved from the farm, submit soil and litter samples for analysis, and keep up the good work.

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