

### CAWV TRAINING & EXAM AVAILABLE NOW! CAWV RE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE JULY1!

CAWV training and testing to meet the educational requirements for CAWV certification or re-certification by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (ADAI) is now available on the Internet. **CAWV Certified Animal Waste Vendor Homepage** <http://www.aces.edu/dept/aawm/cawv.php> is authored and maintained by Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) specialists. CAWV training from this page uses the Auburn University Distance Learning educational software program WebCT. The training and testing is available 24/7...whenever the vendor has time to get on the computer. The Training Course is free. There is a \$30 password fee for the separate CAWV Education Verification Exam Course. Exam results are forwarded to ADAI for registration purposes.

**CAWV re-registration deadline is July 1, 2005. No "in-person" CAWV training is planned. After July 1, all CAWVs whose 2003-2004 registration was extended into 2005 will be removed from the ADAI CAWV Certification List UNLESS RE-REGISTERED THRU the WebCT BASED COMPUTER TRAINING. WebCT trained CAWVs will receive an ADAI-issued POCKETCARD & CAWV # (no certificate), typically within 7 to 10 days of receiving exam results. CAWVs are encouraged to keep this card with them for current CAWV Registration Verification to potential customers.**

Every current vendor and anyone that has called the Department of Agriculture and Industries to express an interest in becoming a CAWV will receive a letter informing them of this on-line computer training and the July 1 re-registration deadline.

Ray Hilburn, AI Department of Ag & Industries

### INTERNET CAWV TRAINING & TESTING SITE DIRECTIONS

Separate training and testing courses are available from the Certified Animal Waste Vendor Home Page listed on the left-hand side of the Alabama Animal Waste Management Home Page on the [www.aces.edu/aawm](http://www.aces.edu/aawm) Alabama Animal Waste Home Page on the Internet. *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 (You may also want to Bookmark this page). From the **CAWV Certified Animal Waste Vendor Homepage**, click on **A WebCT Based CAWV Training & Education Verification Site**.

The first article, [How to Use WebCT for CAWV Training and Testing](#) gives instructions for a **BROWSER CHECK** to make sure the web browser (Internet Explorer, Netscape, etc.) you are using is set up to work with the WebCT software. This is an important step and will save frustration as you try to get into WebCT for the training and testing. This article also shows how to set up a WebCT User ID and password.

When you finish [How to Use WebCT for CAWV Training and Testing](#), click [Certified Animal Waste Vendor Training on Open WebCT](#) to self-register on WebCT for the training course. Follow the self-registration instructions to get to the training course. The Training Course is free and takes at least two hours to complete when all the information is read and reviewed. If after taking the training course you decide not to take the CAWV Exam course to become a Certified CAWV, for a \$5 fee you can request an AFO/CAFO Continuing Education Certificate for two (2) hours of continuing education credit. This 2-hour certificate can be used to count toward the ADEM AFO/CAFO Rule annual CAFO continuing education requirement.

The last Module in the training course gives directions to make the choice to either request a Continuing Education certificate OR to register to take the CAWV Education Verification Exam course. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO DO BOTH!** These directions will ask for identifying contact information and allow making the required payment over the Auburn University secure credit card Internet connection or by check mail-in. There is a \$30 charge to register for the Final Exam Course. The "proctor" password needed to take the CAWV exam will be given after payment method is completed. That password will be needed to gain access to the CAWV Final Exam. You may go

from this page directly to the CAWV EXAM Self-Registration page and take the exam at that time. OR you may close out the browser and come back later to **A WebCT Based CAWV Training & Education Verification Site** and click [CAWV Education Verification FINAL EXAM on Open WebCT \(MUST HAVE PURCHASED PASSWORD\)](#) to go directly to the CAWV FINAL EXAM course Self-Registration page. **CAUTION: This password will be good for AT LEAST 24 to 36 hours. If you have not taken the test by that time, follow directions in the training course introduction for contacting ACES for a new password.**

Results of the Final Exam Course are forwarded to Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries for CAWV registration purposes.

Ted Tyson, Extension Biosystems Engineer

### **ADAI Composter Warnings & Quarantines in 2004**

On-farm dead-bird disposal inspections of nearly 2000 poultry operations by ADAI in 2004 resulted in issuing 55 warnings and 20 quarantines. Warnings involved problems with 38 composters, 8 incinerators, 5 illegal pits, 2 freezers and 2 un-covered litter situations. Quarantines involved 8 composters, 7 illegal burials, 3 incinerators, and 2 freezers. CAWVs should always ask for a copy of ADAI Form ### before moving litter or compost from the farm of origin.

Ray Hilburn, Al Department of Ag & Industries

### **BUFFERS REVISITED**

One of the best ways a CAWV can show good stewardship of the resources he's handling is in the observation of vegetative buffers at the edges of his client's fields. A vegetative buffer is a strip of grass where litter is not applied around the downhill edge of a field. It acts as a "Band-Aid" to keep nutrients from reaching the watercourse that is somewhere near every field in Alabama. The watercourse may be a stream, lake or a pond. It may be a few feet or a few hundred feet from the edge of the field, but it is there. The vegetative buffer acts to slow the speed of rainfall runoff as rainwater passes through the grass stems in the buffer. This slowing effect causes particles of litter to drop from the water and collect in the buffer grass, where the nutrients attached to the particles soak into the ground and feed the grass that captures them.

Bill Prince, AL NRCS Environmental Engineer

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BUFFERS**

- What kind of grass should be in the buffer? Usually it will be the same as the application field, if it's a pasture. Otherwise it should be a thick grass that is actively growing at the time of year of most litter applications (e.g. don't expect winter wheat to be a good buffer in July).
- How thick should the grass be? Technically at least one stem per inch. Generally, the ground should not be easily seen through the grass.
- How wide should the buffer be? The required minimum width is 50' of grass. However, in a combination grass/woods buffer the grass portion may be only 20' wide if the wooded area is at least 35' wide on the outside of the field. Also, the grass buffer may need to be up to 400' wide, based on the phosphorus index (PI).
- What is the PI? The PI (phosphorus index) is a worksheet with 11 items to answer. It can be found on the web at <http://www.aces.edu/dept/aawm/pindexws.pdf>. The answers will come from the landowner, a soil survey book, a "windshield survey" around all edges of the field itself, and a list of sensitive waters from ADEM. Although it may be confusing at first, once all the information is collected and a few PI's are done, you will realize how simple they are to do.
- Why is a PI necessary? It will allow you to spread the maximum amount of litter allowable in the application field. This means more litter (money) for you to spread, and it means more production (money) from the field for the farmer.
- How will the grass in the buffer be maintained? Runoff from the application field should supply the needs of the grass in the buffer, but if more grass production is required (e.g. hay production) then commercial fertilizer may be used on the buffers
- CAWVs who learn and practice the skills of planning and maintaining vegetative buffers will be able to demonstrate to their clients the ability and the desire to be a good steward of the land in their trust. This will translate into more business for the CAWV. Assistance on buffers and the PI is available at your local NRCS office.

Bill Prince, AL NRCS Environmental Engineer



Charles Mitchell Extension Agronomist  
(mitchc1@auburn.edu)

Ted Tyson Extension Biosystems Engineer  
(tysontw@auburn.edu)

**Find Local NOAA Weather Forecasts by "City, St" or zip code @**  
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ifps/MapClick.php?CityName=Auburn&state=AL&site=BMX>

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