



ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FOR POULTRY OPERATIONS

To provide environmental benefits, Best Management Practices (BMPs) need to be operated and maintained as designed. The following is a list of potential problems to watch out for in the production area of poultry operations. NRCS and Soil Conservation District staff are available to provide follow-up assistance if needed. (See the back of this sheet for NRCS/SCD contact list.)

Manure Sheds

Manure removed from poultry houses should be stored in a covered shed until it can be applied to crops or otherwise utilized. The following are potential problems you may see in and around manure storage buildings:

- Shed contains equipment or supplies that are not easily moveable (e.g., not on wheels).
- Manure piled outside of shed.
- Manure stacked too high against walls.
- Manure scattered outside shed.
- Obvious surface water conveyance near the open ends of the shed to a drainage ditch.

Composters

Composters provide an environmentally sound method for disposing of normal mortality from poultry houses, if the composters are properly operated. The following are potential problems you may see in and around dead bird composters:

- Thermometer not readily available (DE only).
- Recipe sign not posted (DE only).
- Manure scattered around composter.
- Leakage.
- Excessive odor or flies.
- Dead birds visible.
- Evidence of animals feeding on dead birds.

Concrete Pads

When maintained in good condition and kept clean of manure, concrete pads at the ends of poultry houses can reduce erosion and protect surface and ground water from contamination. The following are potential problems you may see on and around the concrete pads:

- Concrete cracking or breaking off.
- Manure present on pads.
- Obvious surface water conveyance near the open ends of the poultry houses to a drainage ditch.

Windbreaks

Windbreaks, or vegetative environmental buffers, are planted around poultry houses to provide shelter from winter winds; reduce particulates, ammonia, and other odors from tunnel fans; create visual screens; and provide shade to reduce extreme summer heat. The following are potential problems you may see in and around the windbreaks:

- Trees dead, dying, or damaged (e.g., broken off, mowed over, bagworms, etc.).
- Lack of weed control around trees.
- Irrigation system not functioning (e.g., major leaks, broken lines, etc.).
- No irrigation system.

Other Concerns

Other issues that may result in environmental concerns are:

- Roof runoff problems.
- Manure runoff visible.
- Lack of good vegetative cover for filtering storm runoff between waste storage structures, composters, or ends of the poultry houses, and drainage outlets.
- Overall farm appearance (a farm that "looks good" is less likely to generate complaints from neighbors).
- Any other problems or issues at the farm?

NRCS and Soil Conservation District Service Centers – Delmarva Peninsula

For additional information about managing BMPs, or to obtain on-site assistance, please contact your local service center.

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Fax: 302-741-0341

Sussex County

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640 Legion Road
Denton, MD 21629-2040
Phone: 410-479-1202
Fax: 410-479-2069

Dorchester County

501 Court Lane, Room 213
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Phone: 410-632-5439
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Virginia

Accomac County (also serving Northampton County)

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Accomac, VA 23301-1330
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