

## Assisting Producers with Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans in Bradley/ Polk Counties

**B**radley and Polk Counties are two of the top ranking counties in numbers of poultry producers in the state of Tennessee. Recent requirements from the AFO/CAFO rules have made developing Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP) a major request from poultry producers, lending institutions, and environmental interests. With almost 150 poultry producers in the two county areas, concern with proper management of litter and dead bird disposal is at an all time high.

Producers request assistance from NRCS through the local Soil Conservation Districts. Producers may be eligible for financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Technical assistance is provided in the form of engineering designs and plans for litter storage and dead bird compost facilities.

A CNMP was developed with the Henry's that contains several key aspects that addresses water quality criteria for the poultry operation. The key elements in a CNMP address:

- manure handling and storage
- land treatment practices
- nutrient management
- record keeping
- feed management
- dead bird disposal
- emergency action plan
- a closure plan

The Henry's needed the CNMP completed quickly because of the lending institution's requirement for an approved CNMP prior to approving their farm loan. Trent Cash, Soil Conservationist, and Bill Dailey, District Conservationist, worked with the Henry's to complete the CNMP.

Completing the CNMP provided the Henry's the opportunity to fulfill their dream of being farmers while being stewards of the land.



*Polk County poultry farmers Lora and Michael Henry are shown reviewing their CNMP with Trent Cash, NRCS Soil Conservationist in the Cleveland USDA Service Center. Photo by Bill Dailey*