



## ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FOR POULTRY OPERATIONS

To provide environmental benefits, conservation practices must be operated and maintained as designed. The following checklist describes some common problems to look for in the production area of poultry operations.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Soil Conservation District staff are available to provide follow-up assistance if needed. A list of NRCS/SCD offices serving the Delmarva Peninsula is on the back of this sheet.

### Manure Storage

Manure removed from poultry houses should be stored in a covered shed until it can be applied to crops or otherwise used.

The following are potential problems you may see:

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

### Composters

Properly operated composters provide an environmentally sound method for disposing of normal mortality from poultry houses.

The following are potential problems you may see:

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

### Concrete Pads

Concrete pads at the ends of poultry houses and manure sheds can reduce erosion and protect surface and ground water from contamination. Concrete pads should be properly installed, maintained, and kept clean of manure.

The following are potential problems you may see:

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

### 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:

- 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 include, but are not limited to:

- Manure scattered around the production area.
- Manure runoff visible.
- Roof runoff problems.
- 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?

### Conservation Practices Needed?

- Manure Storage.
- Concrete Pads.
- Other (describe).
- Composter.
- Windbreaks.

## NRCS and Soil Conservation District Service Centers – Delmarva Peninsula

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

---

### Delaware ([www.de.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.de.nrcs.usda.gov))

---

#### **Kent County**

800 Bay Road, Suite #2  
Dover, Delaware 19901-4667  
Phone: 302-741-2600 Fax: 302-741-0341

#### **New Castle County**

2430 Old County Road  
Newark, Delaware 19702  
Phone: 302-832-3100 Fax: 302-834-0783

#### **Sussex County**

21315 Berlin Road, Unit #3  
Georgetown, Delaware 19947  
Phone: 302-856-3990 Fax: 302-856-4381

---

### Maryland ([www.md.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.md.nrcs.usda.gov))

---

#### **Caroline County**

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

#### **Cecil County**

105 Chesapeake Blvd.  
Elkton, MD 21921-6376  
Phone: 410-398-4411 Fax: 410-392-6530

#### **Dorchester County**

501 Court Lane, Room 213  
Cambridge, MD 21613-1801  
Phone: 410-228-5640 Fax: 410-228-0078

#### **Kent County**

122 Speer Road  
Chestertown, MD 21620-1037  
Phone: 410-778-5353 Fax: 410-778-0709

---

### Maryland - continued

---

#### **Queen Anne's County**

211 E. Water Street  
Centreville, MD 21617-1101  
Phone: 410-758-1671 Fax: 410-758-3820

#### **Somerset County**

30730 Park Drive  
Princess Anne, MD 21853-1014  
Phone: 410-651-0370 Fax: 410-651-0598

#### **Talbot County**

215 Bay Street  
Easton, MD 21601-2733  
Phone: 410-822-1577 Fax: 410-820-8919

#### **Wicomico County**

2322B Goddard Parkway  
Salisbury, MD 21801-9636  
Phone: 410-546-4777 Fax: 410-860-9819

#### **Worcester County**

304 Commerce Street  
Snow Hill, MD 21863-1008  
Phone: 410-632-5439 Fax: 410-632-2732

---

### Virginia ([www.va.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.va.nrcs.usda.gov))

---

#### **Accomac County (also serves Northampton County)**

22545 Center Parkway  
Accomac, VA 23301-1330  
Phone: 757-787-3581 Fax: 757-787-7739



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.