



ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FOR POULTRY OPERATIONS

To provide environmental benefits, conservation practices need to be operated and maintained as designed. The following checklist describes some common 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 the NRCS/SCD contact list for the Delmarva Peninsula.)

Manure Storage

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:

- Manure piled outside of 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

When installed and maintained in good condition and kept clean of manure, concrete pads at the ends of poultry houses and manure sheds can reduce erosion and protect surface and ground water from contamination.

The following are potential problems you may see:

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

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)

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)

Accomac County (also serving Northampton County)

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



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