



August 29, 2023

**RE: Request for Public Comment on Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA)**  
United States Department of Agriculture, Addressing Resource Concerns for New Poultry  
Operations in Sussex County Watersheds

Stakeholders and Participating Agencies,

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has completed a draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) for addressing new or expected resource concerns for new poultry operations in Sussex County.

We are requesting that you review this project in accordance with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Protection Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190). The draft plan supplement and environmental assessment can be viewed on the [Delaware NRCS Poultry Environmental website](#) for your review and comment.

This EA has been prepared to document the potential environmental impacts associated with new poultry farm operations that are constructed to state regulation requirements in Sussex County, Delaware. This EA is in support of the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), which is intended to provide programmatic documentation for applicants that are not currently eligible to qualify for funding. This assessment was written as a programmatic assessment because it is for a class of actions, not just a single action. The EA has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA, 40 CFR Parts 1500 and 1508, and the USDA NRCS Guidance for Preparing Environmental Assessments.

We request that comments be received at the Delaware State Office on or before October 13, 2023. If your comments are not received by the due date, we will assume you do not wish to comment.

For comment or further information contact Jayme Arthurs, State Resource Conservationist, at [jayme.arthurs@usda.gov](mailto:jayme.arthurs@usda.gov) or at (302) 678-4191.

Sincerely,

KASEY L. TAYLOR  
State Conservationist