

Final report for USDA NRCS CIG 2054
Innovative Demonstrations and Training to Enhance Implementation and Compliance with
Environmental Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Poultry
#68-7217-13-007
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Progress Report by objective:

Objective 1. The evaluation of fan dust impact on water quality was completed.

Water samples were collected at each sufficient rain event and evaluated as described. A total of 36 rain events have been collected beginning in October of 2013. Results indicate that fan dust results in a localized increase in nitrate in runoff water but did not exceed established limits of 10 mg/liter. There was also a localized slight increase in phosphorous and no increase in total nitrogen. These results were presented at the 2014 poultry producer meeting, the 2015 poultry field day and the 2015 Louisiana Farm Bureau meeting. A Louisiana Agriculture article is in preparation and will be submitted for publication in the fall of 2015.

Objective 2.

Six producers were contacted as participants for windrowing. Four were unable to participate due to time constraints and objections imposed by the poultry integrators. Two producers were able to participate and windrows were evaluated for 5 flocks, with samples and parameters collected as described in the protocol. The Hill Farm houses were windrowed 7 times during the study. A video presentation of the Hill Farm windrows has been prepared and was used for agent and producer training. In addition, stacked litter at the Hill Farm has been sampled as described for comparison to windrows for 4 flocks.

Objectives 3 and 4.

The scheduled agent training workshop was conducted in August of 2014. NRCS agents and LSU Extension agents attended. Dr. Harban Lal, one of the authors of the WQI Ag index, presented information on the origin and use of the WQI Ag Index. Other topics at the training workshop included an update on grant results and Master Farmer and conservation planning.

In October of 2014 two producer workshops were conducted one in Many, Louisiana and one at Louisiana Tech in Ruston. The topics and progress of this grant were covered by Dr. Owens at each location as outlined in the grant objectives. Additional Master Farmer and best management practices topics were also addressed. In June 2015 a poultry field day and Master Farmer workshop was held at the Hill Farm, the results from the grant were presented.

The grant objectives and topics are now finalized. Results were summarized and presented at both the poultry field day and at the Louisiana Farm Bureau meeting. A publication is being prepared for submission to Louisiana Agriculture and a journal article is planned for submission to the Journal of Applied Poultry Research.