

FACT: BUFFERS ARE AN INDUSTRY PRIORITY

The poultry industry on the Delmarva Peninsula is committed to promoting vegetative buffers as a preferred best management practice. If you are a grower and have not yet installed a VEB, it is time to consider one! The benefits outweigh any costs and will provide years of benefit to the environment.

RESOURCES

Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. remains a national leader in helping poultry producers understand and install vegetative buffers.

Resources such as the *VEB TOOL-KIT*, a user-friendly guide for poultry farms, are available to growers and other interested parties. DPI has hired the first in the nation VEB Coordinator to work directly with the poultry industry in increasing the number of vegetative buffers on Delmarva's poultry farms.

From general education on buffer design to consultation on individual farm buffer plans, DPI provides a starting place for information. Once a plan is written, DPI can help identify possible funding sources and work with you to complete the installation.

To learn more about these and other resources, please contact DPI.

For more than 50 years, the Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. (DPI) has worked for the benefit of the broiler industry on the Delmarva Peninsula. As a non-profit trade association, DPI continues to serve all sectors of the local poultry industry through industry promotion, disease prevention and control programs, education, legislative representation, and innovative outreach activities such as the VEB program. If you are not already among the 3,000 members of DPI, please consider joining. Together we can make a difference!

*For additional information
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VEGETATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL BUFFERS

Improving the Environment



Poultry growers, like all community members, are interested in preserving our natural resources. Vegetative buffers are one of the best and cheapest ways poultry growers can improve the environment.

Not sure how planting a buffer helps the environment? Well, read on...

CAN BUFFERS BENEFIT THE ENVIRONMENT?

A primary goal of every Vegetative Environmental Buffer (VEB) should be to address any potential environmental impact of the poultry operation. To ensure the greatest environmental value, however, planning must include appropriate plant selection, buffer placement, and a long-term maintenance strategy.

Research continues to identify new ways in which buffers contribute to meeting the objective of proactive environmental stewardship. Here are just a few facts to consider.

FACT: BUFFERS CAN REDUCE AMMONIA EMMISSIONS

Ammonia emissions from a poultry house can be a significant challenge. Research indicates that ammonia, a form of nitrogen, may contribute to nitrification in the Chesapeake Bay and other area watersheds.

Good flock management will dramatically reduce ammonia loads, but cannot eliminate emissions altogether. The installation of a vegetative buffer can help reduce ammonia emissions.

When combined with proper flock management, the use of trees and shrubs which are known to absorb and utilize atmospheric nitrogen can capture ammonia. This process greatly reduces the escape of ammonia from the farm and helps reduce the environmental impact of the poultry operation.

FACT: BUFFERS CAN IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

The quality of ground and surface water is a vital concern for the entire community. Nutrient run-off can contribute to the contamination of drinking water and degrade sensitive aquatic habitats.



Planting a buffer helps to preserve water quality by physically limiting run-off from poultry farms as well as by absorbing excess nutrients through plant roots. Various studies have shown the value of vegetative buffer systems as a critical part of maintaining water quality.

FACT: BUFFERS CAN IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

Emission of dust, feathers, and other particulates, especially from the tunnel fans, are both an environmental and neighbor relations concern. In addition, as air quality receives greater attention from environmental agencies, the need for cost-effective ways to improve air quality becomes more urgent.

The most practical and least costly method of addressing air quality issues is a properly designed and well-maintained VEB. The foliage of trees and shrubs can capture, filter, and disperse airborne particulates from the poultry house.

FACT: BUFFERS CAN REDUCE CARBON DIOXIDE

Carbon dioxide has been called a “greenhouse gas” and may play a role in global warming. For this reason the reduction of carbon dioxide levels has become a world-wide priority. Here again, the simple act of planting a vegetative buffer can help.

Plants have the unique capacity to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release breathable oxygen in its place. The carbon is stored in the plant tissues. Trees and shrubs planted around a poultry farm perform this community service in addition to providing the other benefits to the environment listed above. In short, planting a buffer is a win-win proposition.