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