

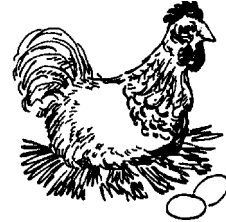


The University of Georgia

Cooperative Extension Service

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences / Athens, Georgia 30602-4356

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COMMERCIAL EGG TIP...

OPERATORS CERTIFICATION TRAINING FOR LIQUID MANURE SYSTEMS IN THE LAYER INDUSTRY

Receive training and certification regarding liquid manure handling and environmental protection. Each farm or operation must have an individual who has been trained and certified by the GDA. These individuals will be considered trained when they have successfully completed at least 2 days of instruction on the following subjects:

1. Understand state regulations and water quality laws. This includes provisions related to minimum setback distances for the siting of poultry facilities and manure storage structures, and the land application of poultry manure.
2. Comprehensive nutrient management planning. A CNMP will address such topics as on-farm nutrient balancing, manure handling and storage practices, mortality management, clean water diversion and erosion control, land application of nutrients, emergency response planning, preventative maintenance and inspections, and mapping of structures and field characteristics.
3. Best management practices for manure storage, treatment and land application. For liquid manure systems, this includes appropriate lagoon or slurry design, construction, and management.
4. Monitoring and record keeping. Several components are emphasized, particularly with regard to lagoons: regular inspection of the berm to catch developing problems early before a break may occur; limiting access to the manure facilities to prevent health, injury and environmental hazards; documentation of manure use and off-site transfer.
5. Pollution prevention and alternative treatment systems. Key components include: maintaining sufficient freeboard in order to contain surface water influx during storm events, and preventing unapproved modification of a lagoon which can result in the weakening and breaching of lagoon berms.

PUTTING KNOWLEDGE TO WORK

The University of Georgia and Ft. Valley State College, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and counties of the state cooperating.
The Cooperative Extension service officers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability
An equal opportunity/affirmative action organization committed to a diverse work force..

6. Odor and atmosphere emissions. Modifying operational activities to reduce emissions can lessen negative community impacts and improve neighbor relations.
7. Closure of manure storage structures. By state law, all manure containment facilities must be completely and properly closed if a poultry farm ceases operation. Improperly closed lagoons that are abandoned by the owner may become subject to stiff prosecution from state authorities should an on-site accident or breach occur that results in injury or water quality degradation.

All poultry facilities with liquid manure systems must have at least one individual who has received the GDA-sponsored training by October 31, 2002. Two training sessions specifically tailored for poultry operators have already taken place. One additional session will be available in conjunction with training for dairy operations in February 2002. Individuals who do not receive training during the scheduled sessions will have to contact the GDA to schedule training opportunities. Individuals or operations who do not receive training and certification by the October 31, 2002 deadline will not be in compliance with the permit authority and may be subject to regulatory action.

If you have yet to receive training and certification for your poultry operation, contact your local county extension agent for the time and location of the next available training opportunity.


Casey W. Ritz
Extension Poultry Scientist

County Extension Coordinator/Agent

****Consult with your poultry company representative before making management changes.****

“Your local County Extension Agent is a source of more information on this subject.”