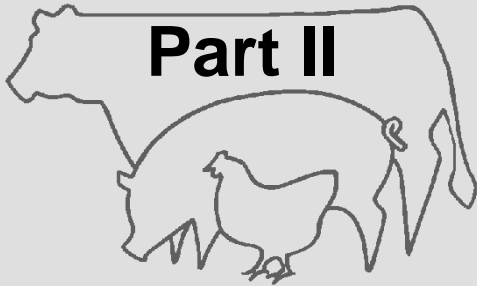


# Water Quality Update

Newsletter of Extension Water Quality Programs

September 1999

## The AFO Plan: Part II



In the Unified National Strategy on Animal Feeding Operations, the EPA stressed that some of the considerations within the plan will require adjustment in the not too distant future. Some of those elements were addressed directly in the document. These included some new features for possible incorporation as well as revisions to others already included in the plan.

The strategy mentions that facilities of over 1000 animal units or smaller facilities that have unacceptable conditions and/or significantly impair water quality are designated as "confined animal feeding operations," or CAFOs. Currently, these 15-20,000 operations are the only facilities required to obtain National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. The rules and regulations concerning CAFOs is one of the areas in which the EPA expects to make revisions.

According to the plan: "Key permitting issues that EPA intends to consider during the regulatory revision process include:

- Establishing specific monitoring and reporting requirements for permitted facilities.
- Clarifying whether and under what conditions AFOs may be subject to NPDES requirements.

- Clarifying requirements for effective management of manure and wastewater from CAFOs whether they are handled on-site or off-site.
- Explore alternative ways of defining CAFOs (e.g., facilities that have a man-made conveyance, regardless of size).
- Consider requirements for CAFOs to conduct self-certifications and self-evaluations of CNMP implementation and keep records of such evaluations on-site.
- Considering large poultry operations, consistent with the size threshold for other animal sectors, as CAFOs, regardless of the type of watering or manure handling system.
- Who may designate and the criteria for designating certain AFOs as CAFOs.
- Protection of sensitive or highly valuable water bodies such as public water supplies, Outstanding National Water Resources, Sole Source Aquifers, wetlands, ground water recharge areas, zones of significant ground/surface water interaction, and other areas.
- Requiring CAFOs to have an NPDES permit even if they only discharge during a 25-year, 24-hour or larger storm event.
- Requiring individual permits for CAFOs in some situations.
- Appropriate public review of general permit conditions applicable to individual facilities, including public notice of facilities to be covered.
- Explore alternative approaches to ensuring that corporate entities support the efforts of individual CAFOs to comply with permits and develop and implement CNMPs."

The revisions to the strategy will be closely tied to the revision of the Feedlots Effluent Limitation Guideline (40CFR Part 412). A regulatory workgroup will serve to aid EPA in this process.

## Poultry Litter Options

Cleaner waters along Delmarva's eastern shore (Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia) is the goal of a new effort announced by Perdue Farms. Founded in 1920, Perdue is the largest integrated poultry producer in the Northeast and the third largest in the United States. Perdue plans to help area chicken producers dispose of their excess chicken manure, which has become a major threat to water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. Under the plan, Perdue will partner with AgriRecycle of Springfield, MO, to create a joint-venture company that will process poultry litter into a USDA-approved organic starter fertilizer product that can be transported to other areas of the country.

In announcing the initiative, Jim Perdue, chairman of Perdue said, "Both poultry and crop producers are faced with increasing environmental mandates on farming. Our goal is to help keep farming viable on the Delmarva Peninsula." Perdue said the company has been seeking a solution for the litter and that "many options were considered." One of the reasons Perdue selected AgriRecycle was that they offer the technology Perdue believes will be the most effective and efficient in helping resolve the nutrient management issue.

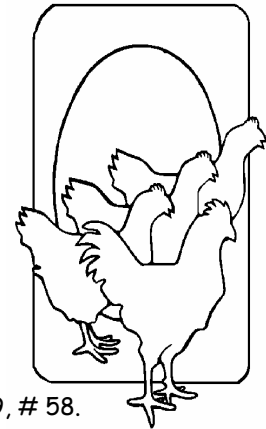
"There are still a lot of details to be worked out, but our intention is to compensate our producers for their litter," said Perdue. AgriRecycle's technology creates a product that can be used in conjunction with chemical fertilizers. The pelletizing process to be implemented results in a starter fertilizer product that has a consistent nutrient value and is pasteurized. The fertilizer can be easily and safely transported to locations outside Delmarva that are deficient in nitrogen and phosphorus for use by row-crop farmers. Under current practices, poultry producers usually apply the litter directly to land as a crop fertilizer.

"Our pelletized litter is an ideal complement for chemical fertilizers since it helps the plant absorb the nutrients in a more effective manner," explained Mike Ferguson of AgriRecycle. "Chicken litter is rich in humus and organic matter, which have been depleted in certain row crop farming areas. By replacing these vital elements to the land, plants are able to absorb more nutrients and the soil is better able to retain moisture, which prevents runoff and resultant nutrient losses."

The new facility will be located on the Delmarva Peninsula to ensure easy access to a steady supply of raw material and to the shipping and rail lines necessary to transport the finished product to customers. AgriRecycle and Perdue anticipate the new facility will process as much as 120,000 tons of raw poultry litter each year (waste from 1,200 broiler houses), producing 95,000 tons of pelletized product. The 120,000 tons is more than a third of the manure generated by the 240 million birds the company processes on the Delmarva Peninsula annually. The facility is expected to cost between \$5 and \$6 million. "We hope to have this innovative facility up and running by the end of the year," Perdue said.

[For more information, contact Mike Ferguson, AgriRecycle, 1525 W. Sunshine St, Suite C, Springfield, MO 65807, Ph: (417) 831-3000; [www.agrirecycle.com](http://www.agrirecycle.com), or Tita Cherrier, Perdue Farms Inc., P.O. Box 1537, Salisbury, MD 21802-1537, Ph: (410) 860-4407]

*Nonpoint Source News-Notes,*  
EPA-Terrene Institute, July 1999, # 58.



If you need a copy of any articles, contact Shawna Stiockoff at (405) 744-5653 or [sshawna@okstate.edu](mailto:sshawna@okstate.edu).

Michael D. Smolen, Water Quality Coordinator; Dept. of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering 218 Ag Hall, Stillwater, OK 74078-6021  
(405) 744-5653 or FAX (405) 744-6059

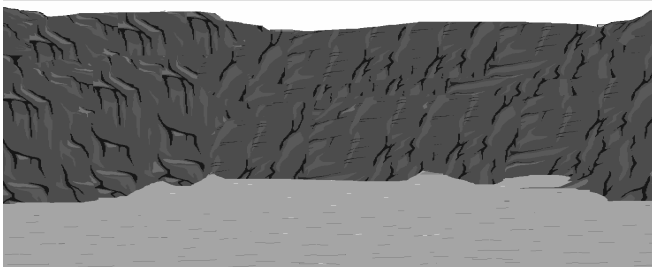
Editor: Tim Propst, Extension Engineer/Environmental Scientist, ([propst@okstate.edu](mailto:propst@okstate.edu))

## House Panel Approves Aid for Small Watershed Dams

On Tuesday, July 20, the House Agriculture subcommittee on general farm commodities, resource conservation and credit approved H.R. 728, Rep. Frank Lucas's bill that would authorize \$600 million over 10 years for financial and technical assistance to repair and rehabilitate small watershed dams around the country. The proposed legislation would apply to approximately 10,000 structures that are up to fifty years old and would provide for a 65-35 state-federal cost share for the financial burden of dam upkeep and repair. The bill puts USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at the helm of designing, planning, and implementing the projects.

Lucas's bill, the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Amendments of 1999, does not include language to encompass dams constructed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and WIP. Opponents claim that would create ambiguity at the local level when assessing which structures could receive program assistance. Currently, an amendment proposed by Rep. David Minge (D-2, MN) modifying the bill to include "orphan dams" built by the WPA and WIP, has been referred out of the House Agriculture subcommittee to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Natural Resource Committee for review. The bill passed the Agriculture subcommittee without amendment.

*The District Leader, The National Association of Conservation Districts, August 1999*



## Briggs Ranch Field Day

For those that have experienced the dry summer here in Oklahoma and have forgotten what a good ol' fashioned downpour looks like, the Field Day at Briggs Ranch near Monroe, OK, is especially for you.

Briggs Ranch is the site for the 319 Project, "Environmentally Sound Grazing System for Utilization of Nutrients from Poultry Litter." Eight field plots with various combinations of poultry litter application rates and forage varieties are being utilized to monitor nutrient runoff during rain events. Fortunately, a simulator, not the weather, is being relied upon for the rain supply.

On October 14, a demonstration of the simulator and a field tour are planned to provide a first hand look at this research project. The uptake of nutrients from the applied poultry litter has produced some exceptional yields, demonstrating the usefulness of these methods for reducing nutrient runoff.

A training session on dead bird composting at the LeFlore County fairgrounds will be held that morning. Poultry operators who attend both sessions will meet the annual requirement for three hours of continuing education credit.

For more information, contact Joe Bullard at 918-647-8231.

***Rejoice with those who rejoice, mourn with those who mourn. Romans 12:15***

Our condolences go out to Joe Bullard, LeFlore County Extension Educator, Agriculture (Water Quality) at the passing of his mother, Wanda "Billie" Bullard.

Congratulations to former Water Quality Update Editor Anna Fallon and husband Troy Pierce on the birth of their first child. Daughter Elora arrived on July 22, weighing 7 lbs, 11 oz, and measuring 21 inches long.



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## ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Water Quality Programs  
218 Ag Hall  
Stillwater, OK 74078-6021

## DATELINE

- Sept 10, 1999** – Deadline for FY 2000 **Wetland Grant proposals** to OCC – Jennifer Myers at 405.521.6157.
- Sept 13-16, 1999** – Phoenix, AZ – **The Clean Water Compliance Institute** – 301.921.2345 or [www.govinst.com](http://www.govinst.com)
- Sept 16-17, 1999** – Austin, TX – **Design of Waste Containment Liner and Final Closure Systems** – American Society of Civil Engineers – 1.800.548.2723 or [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org)
- Sept 27-29, 1999** – St. Louis, MO – **Alliance for Environmental Stewardship: A Comprehensive Approach** – Contact: Richard Reynnells, 202.401.5352 or [reynnells@reusda.gov](mailto:reynnells@reusda.gov)
- Sept 29-30, 1999** – San Antonio, TX - **NPDES Storm Water Permit Compliance** - American Society of Civil Engineers – 1.800.548.2723 or [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org)
- Oct 9-13, 1999** – New Orleans, LA – **WEFTEC '99 – 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Exhibition & Technical Conference on Water Quality and Wastewater Treatment** – Water Environment Federation – 1.800.666.0206 or [www.wef.org/docs/conferences.html](http://www.wef.org/docs/conferences.html)
- Sept 14, 1999** – Monroe, OK – **Briggs Ranch Field Day** – Joe Bullard at 918.647.8231
- Jan 12-15, 2000** – Phoenix, AZ – **Technology for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – Technology Expo & Internat'l Symposium: Small Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems** – Contact: H. Diane Snyder, 505.843.9119 or [rwref@nm.net](mailto:rwref@nm.net)
- Feb 7-10, 2000** – Chicago, IL – **Tools for Urban Water Resource Management and Protection** - US EPA Office of Wastewater Management, US-EPA Region 5 Office, and Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission – Contact: Bob Kirschner, 312.454.0401, ext. 303 or [bobkirs@nipc.org](mailto:bobkirs@nipc.org)