

**HILL FARM RESEARCH STATION  
OCTOBER 14, 2004  
FIELD DAY SUMMARY REPORT**

COMMODITY: Forages

TITLE: Environmental Regulations: How They Affect Forage Producers

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TAKE HOME MESSAGE:

Even though regulatory guidelines will not require non-poultry producers who utilize poultry litter to obtain environmental permits, they will however be held responsible for their management practices.

Poultry producers who transfer poultry litter to other producers will be required to document who received the litter and maintain those records for 5 years. It will behoove all producers who receive litter from poultry producers to keep stringent records of their utilization practices.

PROBLEM / TOPIC:

Poultry producers who meet certain criteria will soon be required to obtain National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits which requires them to account for all animal waste generated on their operations. The permit will require the operations to maintain records of all poultry waste products that is transferred off the farm. The producers will be required to analyze their poultry litter on an annual basis and provide the transferee a copy of the nutrient analysis of the litter that is being transferred. The poultry producer must keep records for a minimum of 5 years.

ACTION:

Forage producers who utilize poultry litter should implement record keeping practices regarding the utilization of poultry litter. Even though environmental regulations do not yet require that these records are maintained by non-poultry producers, documentation of management practices will be beneficial everyone.

Forage producers should record the following information:

1. Date of application.
2. Nutrient analysis of litter, including moisture content.
3. Weather conditions during the day before application, the day of application and the forecasted conditions for the day following application.
4. Wind direction the day of application.
5. The amount of litter applied to the crop.

IMPACT:

Environmental regulatory agencies are in the process of developing permits for poultry operations that house 125,000 or more broilers per flock or is designated by the regulatory agency. These producers will be required to document the transferring of poultry litter to off farm sites and maintain the records for five years.

In order for forage producers to protect themselves from public complaints, scrutiny or potential regulatory agency procedures, they should maintain records of poultry litter application.