

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Perdue Clean Bays Environment Management Initiative

The Environmental Protection Agency, Mid-Atlantic Region, and Perdue Farms Incorporated have signed a Memorandum of Agreement to work together to develop and implement the *Perdue Clean Bays Environmental Management Initiative*. The purpose of this program is to provide training, assistance, and environmental assessments as it relates to poultry operations to protect the waters of Delmarva, including the Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Bays and to enhance producers' compliance, as it relates to poultry operations, with federal, state, and local environmental regulations.

Scope

- ❑ The program will be implemented in two stages. The first stage, to commence in **January 2007**, will be a pilot program directed toward the largest Perdue producers on the Delmarva Peninsula. The purpose of this pilot program will be to develop and field test the necessary tools to implement a corporate-wide program.
- ❑ The effectiveness of the program will be assessed after one year. Based upon the results of the pilot program, Perdue and EPA will work together to develop and implement a corporate-wide program. The target date for implementing the corporate-wide program is June 2008.

Together, EPA and Perdue will ...

Design a program to minimize environmental impacts to the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Bays and to help poultry producers comply with environmental requirements. EPA and Perdue have identified the following critical components of the program and will work together to refine their elements:

- ❑ **Training Assistance:** EPA and Perdue, in conjunction with other federal and state agricultural agencies, will develop a training and assistance program to ensure that Perdue associates and producers have the sufficient tools and knowledge with environmental regulations to minimize nutrient loads to Delmarva waters.
- ❑ **Producer Environmental Assessments:** EPA and Perdue will develop a thorough assessment program that will occur three times a year to help poultry producers comply with the Nutrient Management Plan, as it relates to the poultry operation, and that Best Management Practices are fully implemented.
- ❑ **Deviation Response Plan:** Perdue will develop and implement a program to address and correct issues identified in the assessment of the Nutrient Management Plan.
- ❑ **Environmental Results:** EPA and Perdue will develop and implement a set of program measures to track progress toward achieving environmental improvement and compliance.
- ❑ **Program Evaluation:** EPA and Perdue will conduct annual and periodic evaluations involving joint record reviews, environmental results analysis and site assessments.
- ❑ **Recognition:** EPA and Perdue will develop a program to recognize poultry producers who demonstrate environmental and compliance excellence, particularly efforts to minimize nutrient loads.
- ❑ **EPA Compliance Assurance Activities:** When targeting for inspections, EPA will give positive consideration to those poultry operations that are effectively implementing the program and devote more time to those areas where there is a higher environmental and compliance risk.

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