North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Division of Water Resources
Water Quality Programs

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Dry Litter Poultry Requirements

1. Litter shall not be stockpiled within 100 feet of perennial streams or wells.

2. Litter shall not be left uncovered for more than 15 days.

3. For land application, a setback of 25 feet from perennial streams must be maintained. However, land appliers should be aware of setbacks from all ditches and intermittent streams. Runoff of litter due to improper land application can lead to discharges which can result in violations or enforcement actions.

   Note that even if the above requirements are met, it is still the responsibility of the producer to make sure that there is no discharge to waters of the State.

4. Litter shall be applied at rates that do not exceed the agronomic rate of the receiving crop. The rates may be based on NCDA&CS soil test recommendations or NRCS Standards (realistic yield expectations). For more information on realistic yield expectations, contact a technical specialist with the Cooperative Extension Service, NRCS, NCDA&CS, or your local Soil and Water Conservation District.

5. Litter shall be sampled as close to the time of application as practical, but at least within 60 days of the land application event. If manure is given or sold to a 3rd party, it is still the responsibility of the generator to conduct the waste analysis, and provide a copy to the 3rd party hauler/farmer.

   The State average N content for dry litter as shown in the *North Carolina Agricultural Chemical Manual* published annually by NCSU may be used to calculate application rates in lieu of individual waste analysis; however, waste analysis is still required. Info on waste analysis procedures is available from the Cooperative Extension Service, publication number AG-439-33, *Soil Facts: Waste Analysis*, at http://www.soil.ncsu.edu/publications/Soilfacts/AG-439-33/

6. A soil analysis is required once every three years for all fields that receive litter using the standard soil fertility analysis, available from NCDA&CS. Information on soil sampling procedures is available from the Cooperative Extension Service, publication number AG-439-30, *Soil Facts: Careful Soil Sampling – The Key to Reliable Soil Test Information*, at http://www.soil.ncsu.edu/publications/Soilfacts/AG-439-30/

7. Recordkeeping for dry litter poultry. All records shall be kept for three years, including but not limited to:
   - Soil test and waste analysis results
   - Land application records

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- Records of litter sold or given to a 3rd party. For litter that is given to a 3rd party, the following information must be maintained:
  - Amount of litter removed
  - Date litter was removed
  - Name, address, and phone number of the manure hauler

8. Lime shall be applied to fields as specified by the Soil Test Report to assure suitable conditions for crop growth.

9. Litter application must be stopped on a field if copper and zinc soil concentrations reach an Index level of 3,000. As a proactive measure, waste generators should begin seeking alternate fields if the level exceeds 2,000.

10. When litter is given to a 3rd party, the following requirements apply:
    - Recordkeeping requirements in #8 above, except for land application records
    - A copy of the current waste analysis must be provided to the 3rd party
    - Provide a copy of these guidelines to the 3rd party.

    <u>For dry litter operations that give away/sell all litter to a 3rd party or hauler:</u>

    - If the 3rd party applies litter to land that is owned by the litter generator, then that land must be included in the litter generator's Waste Utilization Plan.
    - If the 3rd party hauls all litter away, and applies it to other 3rd party fields, then the litter generator does not need to have fields listed in the Waste Utilization Plan. In this case, a plan is still needed. The plan would be similar to the format suggested in #1 above, but it would just state that all litter is hauled away.

This is not meant to be a complete list of requirements, but to give poultry growers a summary of the regulations that are in place.

Questions:

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