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## Public Participation and Education

Public participation and education are important parts of the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) permitting process for large livestock and poultry farms. The Division of Livestock Environmental Permitting (DLEP) website (<http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/LEPP/Lepp.aspx>) is a key vehicle for information of program activities.

**Draft Permits:** Farmers planning to construct a permitted livestock or poultry facility must submit an application for a draft Permit to Install (PTI) and a draft Permit to Operate (PTO) with the DLEP office. Once the applications are submitted, the DLEP engineering staff reviews the documents and works with the farm applicant(s) on making any necessary changes. An environmental background check of the owner(s)\operator(s) is conducted by the DLEP legal staff. If the application meets all of the state requirements, a draft PTI\PTO will be issued.

A public notice of the draft permits is published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the facility is located. A copy of the draft permits is provided to the:

- Board of County Commissioners for that county
- Board of Township Trustees for that township
- Local board of health
- Local soil and water conservation district
- Owners or operators of public water systems that have surface water intake structures located within 10 miles downstream of the proposed facility.

The fact sheet and public notice of the draft permits are posted on the DLEP website. Any person interested in facilities in their area or county can request the department place them on an interested party mailing list.

**Final Permits:** Once the permits are final, a public notice is published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the facility is located, and is posted on the DLEP website. If a public meeting is conducted, a copy of the responsiveness summary will be provided to those who provided comments on the record, and to those who provided comments in writing during the 30 day public comment period.

