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J&A Poultry Draft Permit to Operate Renewal

General overview of the farm

J&A Poultry is located at 8690 St. Rt. 119, Maria Stein, Ohio, which is in Mercer County, Marion Township, situated in the Upper Wabash Watershed. The facility is owned and operated by J&A Poultry, Inc. of which Brad and Jerry Everman are members. The permitted design capacity at the facility is 196,000 laying hens housed in three belt battery barns. Manure from each barn is conveyed and stored in one separate manure storage barn which provides approximately 105,000 cubic feet of storage.

Overview of Draft Permit to Operate

Within the draft Permit to Operate (PTO), a complete Manure Management Plan is provided, which outlines inspections and monitoring that must be completed by the facility. The estimated manure production for the entire facility is 3,000 tons annually, which is distributed to other farmers for application on crop land as an organic replacement for commercial, synthetic fertilizers.

An Insect and Rodent Control Plan is included to minimize the presence and negative effects of insects and rodents. The plan includes methods to control flies, beetles and mice. The plan identifies requirements for regular inspections throughout the buildings for flies, larvae and beetles, as well as daily water leak inspections. The results of regular inspections are used to determine if the facility is required to perform treatment for insects or rodents based on the criteria set forth in the permit.

A Mortality Management Plan is required for disposal of dead livestock. Approved methods of disposal are burying, landfilling, burning, rendering and composting. J&A Poultry uses mortality composting as their primary method for mortality disposal.

An Emergency Response Plan is required to ensure accidents or emergencies are handled quickly and efficiently to maintain the safety of the environment, wildlife and water supplies. In case of an emergency or accident, the names and phone numbers of contact personnel and equipment are listed in the permit.

Finally, an Operating Record is included that provides all forms and information that must be maintained by the facility to demonstrate compliance with ODA's rules and the permit. These records include inspection of the manure storage structures, manure characterization, land application, insect and rodent control, distribution and utilization of manure, and mortality management. The facility and these records are inspected by the Ohio Department of Agriculture to ensure compliance.

