

## INTRODUCTION

This document has three major purposes:

1. To assist NRCS field office personnel when explaining various components of poultry waste management systems to prospective clients.
2. To provide all necessary forms and documentation related to poultry waste management in one, easy-to-access, three-ring binder, and, thereby, to facilitate development of poultry waste management plans.
3. To assist field office personnel who have appropriate engineering approval authority to develop designs for structural components of poultry waste management systems.

If is expected that field office personnel will use this Handbook when discussing various waste management options with poultry producers who are seeking assistance installing litter dry stacks and composter facilities. Drawings of various types of structures are presented to provide the producer with a visual presentation of the alternatives.

Appropriate blank forms are provided as well as completed forms and examples to assist field office personnel in planning a poultry waste management system. The blank forms can be reproduced as needed.

Design decision trees have been developed to provide a quick method of sizing structural members of dry stacks and composters without using the rigorous engineering calculations based on wind loads, height of structure, width of trusses, and post spacing. Four tree charts are provided based on wind loads. Two are for north Alabama and two for south Alabama (see geographic demarcation lines noted on these forms.)

A construction checklist and construction specifications are included. Field office personnel who work regularly with poultry producers should familiarize themselves with these documents since they are essential in understanding proper construction of litter storage facilities and composters. These documents should be discussed with producer and contractor prior to installation.

Field office personnel should also familiarize themselves with the guide sheets provided. Each guide sheet should be discussed with the producer and be included in the waste management plan.