Poultry Operation Record Keeping Guide & Quick Reference Booklet

In order to help poultry growers comply with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) permit requirements and the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Nutrient Management Program, the MDA has put together a record keeping and resource guide. The guide contains examples of the types of records that growers need to keep in order to be compliant with MDE programs and MDA’s Nutrient Management Program. Additionally, it provides information on best management practices, public access, biosecurity, temporary stockpiling manure and land application setbacks.

To access the record keeping guide, go to the following link: http://extension.umd.edu/learn/commercial-poultry-record-keeping-guide-available.

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Commercial Poultry Production
Objective

Our goal is to help Maryland’s poultry industry and growers with general practical knowledge about poultry production practices in order to continue to develop, maintain, and operate economically viable and environmentally responsible poultry operations in the state.

The University of Maryland Extension has produced a new weather resistant Biosecurity Area sign for chicken growers to post at the entrances of their properties to discourage unwelcomed visitors. University of Maryland Extension Poultry Specialist, Jon Moyle, developed the sign along with DPI President, Jenny Rhodes, in her capacity as the Queen Anne’s County Agricultural Educator. You can contact either of them to get signs. Reach Jon Moyle at 410-749-6141 or jmoyle@umd.edu and Jenny Rhodes at 410-758-0166 or jrhodes@umd.edu

Facts

- Poultry is the largest animal and agricultural industry in Maryland, with over $1.7 billion in total output, almost 7,000 individuals employed, and $500 million in value added.
- Approximately 36% of Maryland’s cash farm income was from meat chickens in 2011.
- Maryland ranks 8th among the states in chicken production.
- History: By late 1950s, poultry production changed dramatically. Large farms and packing plants could grow birds by the tens of thousands. Chickens could be sent to slaughterhouses for butchering and processing into prepackaged commercial products to be frozen or shipped fresh to markets or wholesalers. Meat-type chickens currently grow to market weight in six to seven weeks when only 50 years ago it took 3 times as long. This is due to genetic selection and nutritional modifications (and not the use of growth hormones, which are illegal for use in poultry in the US and many other countries). Once a meat consumed only occasionally, the common availability and lower cost has made chicken a common meat product within developed nations. Growing concerns over the cholesterol content of red meat in the 1980s and 1990s further resulted in increased consumption of chicken.