Some of the topics you will find on the University of Maryland Extension Poultry website (www.extension.umd.edu/poultry) to aid you in improving environmental stewardship include:

- Composting Dead Bird
- Sampling Manure for Nutrient Content
- MDE CAFO/MAFO information
- Record Keeping

Additional information can be found at the University of Maryland Extension agricultural Nutrient Management Program website (http://extension.umd.edu/anmp/nutrient-management-resources).

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Poultry growers, like all community members, are interested in preserving our natural resources. In order lessen the impact of poultry production they have implemented several strategies including:

- Vegetative buffers
- Improved land application of litter
- Reducing phosphorus levels in feed
- On farm composting of mortality
- Improving farm efficiency to reduce energy consumption
- Sheds for poultry litter
- Heavy use area pads
- Grass swales in between chicken houses
- Grass in front of fans to catch dust
- Changing fans to blow into grass

Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. remains a national leader in helping poultry producers understand and install vegetative buffers.

Resources such as the VEB TOOL-KIT, a user-friendly guide for poultry farms, are available to growers and other interested parties. DPI has hired the first in the nation VEB Coordinator to work directly with the poultry industry in increasing the number of vegetative buffers on Delmarva’s poultry farms.

From general education on buffer design to consultation on individual farm buffer plans, DPI provides a starting place for information. Once a plan is written, DPI can help identify possible funding sources and work with you to complete the installation.

To learn more about these and other resources, please contact DPI. [http://www.dpichicken.org/index.cfm](http://www.dpichicken.org/index.cfm)

- 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.
- The installation of a vegetative buffer can help reduce ammonia emissions.
- Planting a buffer helps to preserve water quality by physically limiting run-off from poultry farms as well as by absorbing excess nutrients through plant roots.
- Trees and shrubs planted around a poultry farm remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release breathable oxygen in its place.
- The foliage of trees and shrubs can capture, filter, and disperse airborne particulates from the poultry house.
- According to 2012 estimates from the Bay Program, agriculture contributes 42 percent of the nitrogen, 58 percent of the phosphorus and 58 percent of the sediment entering the Bay.
- According to 2010 estimates from the EPA, manure accounts for 19 percent of the nitrogen and 26 percent of the phosphorus entering the Bay.
- Urban and septic pollution, meaning runoff from roads and yards, accounts for 20 to 37% of excess nutrients in the Bay.
- Wastewater treatment facilities are responsible for 20 to 22% of bay excess nutrients.
- Approximately 51 billion gallons of water flow into the Bay each day from its freshwater tributaries.