



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors

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Delaware Nutrient Commission approves two research proposals for poultry litter.

The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission (DNMC) recently approved two different research proposals relating to in-house poultry litter recycling and temporary outdoor poultry litter storage. The total amount of funding for the two proposals is \$55,789, which will be drawn from the \$160,000 provided to the DNMC by the General Assembly in the last session. The General Assembly funds are to be used to assist the DNMC in balancing science with current policy development. The remaining \$104,211 will be open for grant selections due by January 1, 2006.

The two proposals that were approved are:

- (1) Poultry Litter Revitalization – a project that recycles litter in the chicken house with the intent to reduce bedding material and reduce the amount of crust out litter for storage. The project will be managed by the University of Delaware scientists Bud Malone, Dr. Dave Hansen and Dr. Gary Van Wicklen.
- (2) Managing Temporary Storage of Poultry Litter in Delaware – a project that will evaluate outdoor storage of litter and measure nutrient losses and effectiveness of Best Management Practices. The project will be managed by the University of Delaware scientist Dr. Greg Binford and Dr. Dave Hansen.

The DNMC's research priorities include evaluating environmental impacts of temporary in-field poultry litter storage, assessing alternatives to field storage, measuring manure and litter application setback results, evaluating surface flow of phosphorus, quantifying environmental results of best management practices and measuring the phosphorus critical sub-surface flow path baseline.

For additional information about the grant process please contact the DNMC Administrator Bill Rohrer at (302) 698-4500 or (800) 282-8685 (DE Only).



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Photo:

By revitalizing poultry litter and bedding, crust-outs between flocks may be reduced and total clean-outs may be better scheduled to prevent outdoor storage.