



INTRODUCTION TO BROILER LITTER

The application of broiler litter to growing crops provides plant nutrients to the soil and provides a way of disposing of litter.

Broiler litter application needs to be based on the nutrient content of the litter and the nutrient requirements of the crop. When litter is applied by this standard, it is very effective as a fertilizer and safe for the environment.

Broiler litter applied in excess to crop needs creates a potential for leaching or surface runoff of nitrogen and phosphorus into ground water. The main focus of government environmental regulation is in preventing contamination of ground water with nitrates. Regulatory agencies respond to all complaints of water or air pollution. Broiler litter used in proper rates with crop production will maintain the quality of ground water and air.

Broiler litter has many potential uses including fertilizing crops and cow feed. Many alternatives for using broiler litter have been looked at over the years, but most have not been economically feasible at this time. Changes in the economic and environmental conditions may make these ideas feasible in the future.

Possible uses of broiler litter include: soil amendments, ingredient in potting soils by greenhouse industries, composted and bagged products, biogas generators, energy source for generators, organic matter for reclaiming waste lands, mushroom farming, and many more.

Broiler litter provides a good source of protein, energy and minerals when fed to brood cows and stocker cattle. In addition to offering an economic advantage, using broiler litter in feed helps conserve plant nutrients. Nutrients in broiler litter fed to cows is redistributed on pasture land as manure.

Records are an essential part of using broiler litter. Records will be required to keep track of litter from the broiler house to its final disposal. It is to the benefit of the producer to be able to account for all litter produced. Record forms are provided to enable producers to keep records of litter, fertilizer and herbicide usage.

The following record forms are included in the Record's Section:

- Determining Rate of Broiler Litter Application
- Broiler Litter Record
- Individual Field Record
- Value of Crop and Livestock Production Record
- Pesticide Application Record
- Rainfall Data Sheet
- Calibration of Manure Spreaders and Sprayers