



## Introduction

As world population increases, the more affluent nations have undergone a greater environmental awareness. The citizens of this country through their elected public officials have decreed that environmental concerns are a major national priority.

Animal agriculture is now faced with serious restrictions on animal waste disposal. A 1969 USDA Office of Sciences and Technology report identified animal wastes from confined feeding operations as a major agricultural pollution problem. There have since been large public expenditures on technology development and programs to reduce water pollution from livestock, dairy and poultry production.

Contamination of streams with nitrogen, phosphorus and pathogens from spread manure and pollution of ground water with nitrogen are of particular concern. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that animal agriculture contributes as much as one-half of the non-point surface water pollution in the United States, primarily from improper land application of wastes from confinement sites and from grazing.

Governmental concerns have expanded to include air quality problems associated with ammonia, methane and odors, as well as other problems such as dust, insects, rodents, noise and degradation of aesthetics.

Policy options to address these environmental problems associated with livestock, dairy and poultry production range from voluntary programs to solve problems, to strict regulatory programs where compliance with standards is required, without regard to cost.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission are the regulatory agencies assigned to enforce regulations. Various governmental organizations including the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service have been assigned the task of assisting animal agriculture production groups and individual producers to develop and implement best management practices which will meet state and federal criteria assuring the protection of surface and ground waters, air and soils.

Materials in this publication have been developed to assist the Texas poultryman in meeting requirements set forth by environmental regulatory agencies.

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