

Governor John R. Kasich
Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor
Director James Zehringer

Livestock Environmental Permitting Program
A.B. Graham Building
8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
Phone: 614-387-0470 • Fax: 614-728-6335
www.agri.ohio.gov • lepp@agri.ohio.gov

Public Participation and Education

Public participation and education are important parts of the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) permitting process for large livestock and poultry farms. The Livestock Environmental Permitting Program (LEPP) website (<http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/LEPP/Lepp.aspx>) is a key vehicle for information, along with local information repositories and public information meetings.

Draft permits: Farmers planning to construct a permitted livestock or poultry facility must submit an application for a draft Permit to Install (PTI) and a draft Permit to Operate (PTO) with the LEPP office. Once these applications are complete, the LEPP engineering staff reviews the documents and works with the farm applicant(s) on making any necessary changes. This also includes several on-site inspections. In addition, an environmental background check of the owner(s)/operator(s) is conducted by the LEPP legal staff. If the application meets all of the state requirements, the draft PTI/PTO will be issued.

A public notice of the draft permits is issued to a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the facility is located and a press release is issued to the local media. In addition, a notice and a copy of the draft permits will be mailed to the following:

- Board of County Commissioners for that county
- Board of Township Trustees for that county
- Local board of health
- Local soil and water conservation district
- Owners or operators of public water systems that have surface water intake structures located within 10 miles downstream of the proposed farm

The fact sheet, public notice and press release of the draft permits are also posted on the LEPP website. Any person interested in facilities in their area or county also can request that the department put them on an interested party mailing list.

Final permits: Once the permits are final, a public notice will again be sent to a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the facility is located and a press release sent to the local media. The public notice and news release on the final permits will also be posted on the LEPP website. If a public hearing is conducted, a copy of the final notice and a responsiveness summary will be sent to all those who testified on-the-record, and to those who expressed their comments to the department in writing during the 30-day public comment period.

