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**Livestock Environmental Permitting Program**  
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## **A. J. Evers and Sons** **Draft Permit to Operate**

A. J. Evers and Sons is located in Mercer County, Marion Township, at 1105 Goettemoeller Road, Maria Stein, Ohio 45860. It is in the Upper Great Miami watershed. The facility is owned and operated by Gene and Sharon Evers and Ricky and Brenda Evers.

This draft Permit to Operate (PTO) is a renewal application for the Review Compliance Certificate that was issued by the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) in 2004 and was valid for five years. The Permit to Operate would also be valid for a five-year period, at which time the owners would be required to apply for renewal.

Laying hens are housed in a barn with a maximum design capacity of 108,500 birds. The barn has 99,600 cu. ft. of available manure storage, providing over a year's worth of storage. The birds generate an estimated 652 tons of solid manure annually, most of which will be sold to other farmers as a replacement for commercial synthetic fertilizers. A portion of the manure will be applied to farm land under the control of the facility to satisfy crop nutrient requirements as detailed in the Manure Management Plan of the draft PTO. The Manure Management Plan also outlines inspections and monitoring that must be completed by the facility.

An Insect and Rodent Control Plan is required as part of the draft PTO to minimize the presence and negative effects of insects and rodents.

A Mortality Management Plan is required as part of the draft PTO to address the disposal of dead livestock. Approved methods of disposal are burying, landfilling, burning, rendering and composting. This facility utilizes on-site mortality composting as their primary method of disposal. The composted material is applied to nearby crop land to recycle nutrients.

An Emergency Response Plan is also required to ensure that accidents or emergencies are handled quickly and efficiently to maintain the safety of the environment, wildlife and water supplies and resources.

Finally, an Operating Record is contained in the draft PTO that includes all forms and information that must be maintained by the facility to show compliance with ODA's rules and the permit. These records include inspection of the manure storage structures, groundwater monitoring, manure characterization, land application, insect and rodent control, distribution and utilization of manure, and mortality management. These records are inspected by the department a minimum of twice annually.

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