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## **FACT SHEET: Gerald Post Pullets** **Draft Permit to Operate**

### ***General overview of the farm***

Gerald Post Pullets is located at 2751 Fox Road, Ohio. The Mercer County farm is in Gibson Township, situated in the Upper Wabash watershed. The farm is owned and operated by Gerald Post and has a current capacity for 134,000 pullets.

### ***Overview of Permit to Operate***

The Gerald Post Pullets draft Permit to Operate (PTO) is a renewal PTO to replace an expiring PTO for the entire farm. It is drafted to regulate operations with plans for manure management, insect and rodent control, mortality management and emergency response. It would be valid for a five-year period, at which time the owner would again be required to renew the Operating Permit.

The existing barn has the design capacity for approximately 134,000 pullets. The farm raises pullets, which are brought in as day-old chicks and housed until roughly 18 weeks of age, and then shipped to a layer facility for egg production.

A Manure Management Plan is required as part of the draft Permit to Operate to ensure proper application of manure. The pullets produce approximately 800 as-is tons of manure annually. A manure analysis for the pullets is provided and shows an estimated average moisture content of 79%. The manure has approximately 37 lb/ton total nitrogen, 24 lb/ton of phosphate, and 15 lb/ton of potash. All the manure is distributed off the farm through a manure broker or cooperating crop farmer for use as organic nutrients for crop production.

An Insect and Rodent Control (IRC) plan is required as part of the draft Permit to Operate to minimize the presence and negative effects of insects and rodents. The IRC plan includes methods to control flies, beetles and mice. The farm performs daily walk thru inspections throughout the building and daily water leak inspections. The facility will use spec cards for monitoring flies and will take action when fly specs exceed 400. The facility will spray the pits and walls if additional insect management is required. Inspections and maintenance practices performed will be documented in the operating record.

A Mortality Management Plan is also required for the disposal of dead animals. Approved methods for disposal are burying, burning, rendering or composting. Gerald Post Pullets has selected composting as their method of disposal.

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An Emergency Response Plan, the last plan required by the draft Permit to Operate, ensures accidents or emergencies are handled quickly and efficiently to maintain the safety of the environment, wildlife and water supplies. In case of an emergency or accident, the names and phone numbers of contact personnel and equipment are listed.

Finally, an Operating Record is contained in the draft Permit to Operate that includes all forms and information that must be maintained by the facility to show compliance with ODA's rules. These records include inspection of the manure storage structures, manure characterization, land application, insect and rodent control, distribution and utilization of manure, and mortality management. These records would be inspected by the Ohio Department of Agriculture at least twice annually.

