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Unrast Poultry Farm Draft Permit to Operate Renewal

General overview of the farm

Unrast Poultry is located at 8758 State Route 119 Maria Stein, OH, 45860 which is in Mercer County, Marion SE Township, situated in the Upper Wabash Watershed. The facility is owned and operated by Perry and Robert Unrast. The design capacity at the facility is 192,000 laying hens housed in 2 layer barns and 385 beef cattle housed in 2 barns. The poultry manure is stored in a pit beneath the birds and each has greater than 1 year of storage. The two cattle barns can store about 100 days of manure and an additional manure barn is available to provide additional 189 days of storage. This draft Permit to Operate is a renewal for the previously issued Permit to Operate, which was valid for a period of 5 years.

Overview of Draft Permit to Operate

Within the draft Permit to Operate (PTO), a complete Manure Management Plan is provided, which outlines inspections and monitoring that must be completed by the facility. The estimated manure production for the entire facility is about 1,911 tons of poultry manure and about 605 tons of cattle manure annually. About 25% of the cattle manure will be land applied on 227 acres of crop land the Unrast's farm and the remainder of cattle manure and all the poultry manure be given or sold to local farmers as a substitute for chemical fertilizer.

An Insect and Rodent Control Plan is included to minimize the presence and negative effects of insects and rodents. The plan includes methods to control flies and mice. The plan identifies requirements for regular inspections throughout the buildings for flies, as well as daily water leak inspections. The results of regular inspections are used to determine if the facility is required to perform treatment for insect or rodents based on the criteria set forth in the permit.

A Mortality Management Plan is required for disposal of dead livestock. Approved methods of disposal are burying, landfilling, burning, rendering and composting. Unrast Poultry will continue to use rendering as the primary method of mortality disposal.

An Emergency Response Plan is required to ensure 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 in the permit.

Finally, an Operating Record is included that provides all forms and information that must be maintained by the facility to demonstrate compliance with ODA's rules and the permit. 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. The facility and these records are inspected by the Ohio Department of Agriculture to ensure compliance.

