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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ODA Accepting Public Comments **On Wenning Poultry Farm Draft Permits**

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (March 26, 2009) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) is accepting comments on a draft Permit to Install (PTI) and draft Permit to Operate (PTO) for Wenning Poultry Farm located at 1500 Union City Road in Fort Recovery, Ohio. The Mercer County farm is in Gibson Township which is in the Upper Wabash Watershed. Owned by James R. Wenning at the same address, the farm is currently permitted as a Concentrated Animal Feeding Facility (CAFF) and has a housing capacity of 659,999 layers in five buildings.

In accordance with Ohio Administrative Code rule 901:10-6-01, any person may submit written comments on the draft permits and/or request a public meeting. Comments and requests for a public meeting must be in writing. Where there is significant public interest, the director will hold a public meeting. Written comments and/or public meeting requests must be received by the department no later than 5 p.m. on April 27, 2009. Comments and/or public meeting requests must be hand-delivered or mailed to the ODA Livestock Environmental Permitting Program (LEPP) at 8995 East Main St., Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068. Comments received after this date will not be considered by the director before issuing the final permits.

Copies of the draft Permit to Install and draft Permit to Operate for Wenning Poultry Farm may be reviewed or copies made at the ODA LEPP office. The permits can also be viewed at the Mercer Soil and Water Conservation District Office, 220 West Livingston, Suite 1, in Celina. Those interested should call the SWCD office at (419) 586-3289, and make an appointment. Written comments cannot be submitted to the Mercer SWCD office.

Overview of Permit to Install

Wenning Poultry Farm's draft Permit to Install is to increase its design capacity to 1,241,308 laying hens by expanding the design capacity of barn 6 from 98,500 to 394,000 laying hens and remodeling barns 1 through 4, expanding their design capacity from 102,000 to 174,327 laying hens. The farm also plans to add a pullet barn with a design capacity of 125,000 pullets to stock their facility.

All barns are belt battery that conveys the manure to a digester which processes the manure and egg wash water producing gas to run electric generators. No additional manure storage is proposed for this facility since they had 800 days of storage prior to this expansion, leaving them with more than 365 days of storage after this expansion.



The expansion of the Wenning Poultry Farm has elevated their permit to a Major CAFF. With that classification, the permit applicant consulted with the local county and township officials to discuss if any infrastructure improvements would be necessary.

Overview of Permit to Operate

Wenning Poultry Farm has also completed a draft Permit to Operate for the entire farm. This PTO includes the expansion of the facility and also serves as the replacement of the original Review Compliance Certificate (RCC) that was issued on Nov. 4, 2004, and valid for a period of five years. The PTO is drafted to regulate operations with plans for manure management, insect and rodent control, mortality management and emergency response. This Permit to Operate would also be valid for a five-year period, at which time the owner would be required to renew the operating permit.

The estimated manure production for 1,241,308 layers and 125,000 pullets in the belt battery barns is about 46,720 tons per year. All the solid layer manure would be distributed off of the farm to manure brokers or local farmers. The solid manure nutrient analysis from the manure storage barn is based on an actual analysis from the facility and is as follows: total nitrogen per ton of manure is 10.4 lbs.; phosphate per ton of manure is 17.2 lbs.; and potash per ton of manure is 3.7 lbs.

All of the egg processing wastewater generated at the facility is added to the digester and through the process is either evaporated off or recycled into the digester. Should there be a need to decant off any liquid, Wenning Poultry Farm can store up to one year or 300,000 gallons of egg wash water in its existing egg wash pond and has 100 acres available for application. The liquid manure nutrient analysis of this processing wastewater is estimated from an actual analysis from the facility and is as follows: total nitrogen per 1,000 gallons of manure is 2.2 lbs.; phosphate per 1,000 gallons of manure is 0.1 lbs.; and potash per 1,000 gallons of manure is 0.3 lbs.

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. Wenning Poultry Farm's Insect and Rodent Control Plan includes daily inspections of all layer barns for water leaks and a walk through of the manure storage building. Flies are controlled by the daily transfer of manure into the digester and the perimeter of each building is sprayed with a fly spray after each flock is removed. Traps and bait stations are also placed throughout each barn and would be monitored on a monthly basis. Other areas that would be inspected, cleaned and maintained on a continual basis include the feed system, storage areas, drainage and vegetation around the facility, walkways and exhaust fans. More detail on the Insect and Rodent Control Plan can be found in the draft Permit to Operate.

A Mortality Management Plan is also required for the disposal of dead chickens. Approved methods for disposal are burying, burning, rendering or composting. Wenning Poultry Farm has selected composting as their method of disposal. Buildings would be searched and recorded daily for mortality. Any dead birds found would be immediately removed. All composting would be done on the farm site.

An Emergency Response Plan is the last plan required by the draft Permit to Operate to ensure accidents or emergencies are handled quickly and efficiently to maintain the safety of the environment, wildlife and water supplies. An emergency response map is contained in the draft



PTO, which shows areas for a temporary dike, drainage direction, and areas that temporary dike material would be located. In case of a catastrophic mortality event, a rendering company would be used if the loss exceeds composting capacities.

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 applications, insect and rodent control, distribution and utilization of manure, and mortality management. These records would be inspected by the department a minimum of twice annually.

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