

POULTRY MORTALITY MANAGEMENT

The Kent Conservation District, in cooperation with our public and private partners, are offering a program to assist beginning farmers in Kent County, DE address mortality management on their poultry farms through the implementation of water quality BMPs. Beginning farmers are faced with significant startup costs, and there is a backlog of applicants waiting for approval through cost-share programs for composters or mortality freezers, poultry waste structures, and heavy use area protections. Proper mortality management is critical to prevent leaching of nutrients, spreading of disease, and the attraction of vermin.

Eligible farmers receive 90% cost-share. Farm Freezers LLC and Greener Solutions LLC are offering a \$100 rebate per freezer unit purchased through this program, along with a collection fee rebate of \$100 per flock for one year after installation.

Apply by June 15 for first priority. Applications are taken on an ongoing basis, and are processed once per month. Subsequent batch dates will occur on the 3rd Friday of every month, and applications are competitively ranked.

WHO CAN APPLY?

- A “Beginning Farmer” has not operated a farm or ranch, or has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 consecutive years. (Applies to all members of an entity.)
- Farms must be actively raising poultry.
- Participants must be EQIP-Eligible- check with the Farm Service Agency to confirm your eligibility. (You must complete an AGI form, and, for entities, a DUNS Number and SAMS.gov registration.) Applicants are encouraged to complete this process prior to application for RCPP funds.
- Applicants must not have a composter that is within its NRCS contract lifespan.

WHAT MORTALITY MANAGEMENT OPTIONS ARE ELIGIBLE?



MORTALITY FREEZER

Freezers are designed to store and hold dead birds on a farm until they can be transported off-farm and properly disposed. Freezers provide multiple benefits- water quality, labor savings and more. Proper use of freezers provides a nearly odor-free area, protection from scavengers and minimizes pathogens. (From [NRCS Fact Sheet: Poultry Freezers](#))

Cost-share and incentives are estimated to pay for the cost of the freezer units and concrete pad. Participants are responsible for building a shelter, and should also consider costs to provide electricity to the site, and collection fees. (Call Farm Freezers LLC at (844) 754-2742 for info on collection fees.)



MORTALITY COMPOSTER

Composting is the predominant method of disposal of routine mortality losses. Many factors need to be considered to determine if composting is the best disposal option for a farm. Proper composting requires labor, skill, commitment and equipment for material handling. Labor and material handling of the carbon source(s) can be a limitation of composting. (Adapted from “[Composting Poultry Losses](#)” by Bud Malone, University of Delaware.)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[MANURE TRANSPORT PROGRAM](#)

Delaware Dept. of Agriculture’s Nutrient Management Relocation Program provides financial assistance for the transportation of manure to alternative use projects or farms in need of nutrients. Any farmer, person or business can apply for assistance. For details, contact Bob Coleman at (302) 698-4556.

[STATE REVOLVING FUND](#)

The State Revolving Fund (SRF) Agricultural Nonpoint Source (AgNPSLP) Loan Program provides a source of low interest financing for managing sources of poultry related pollution in an environmentally sound and cost effective manner. Financing is available at an interest rate of 3 percent, for 1 to 7 years, with a minimum loan of \$1,000 and a maximum loan of \$60,000, for a number of poultry waste and manure management practices. Contact the Kent Conservation District for further details.



Contact the Kent Conservation District at (302) 741-2600 x3 to learn more about the program and discuss the best option for your farm.