



Nutrient Management Profile of Mississippi Poultry Operations

J.L. Oldham and C.D. Coufal



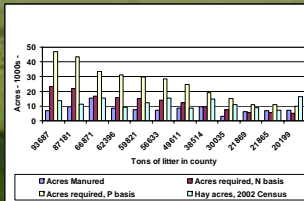
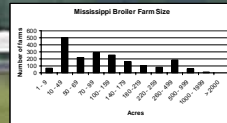
Poultry is usually the largest contributor to Mississippi farm gate income, primarily accruing to approximately 2100 broiler operations located in south-central Mississippi.



The twelve shaded counties are the leading broiler producers.

Most broiler operations have relatively small acreage.

Source: 2002 NASS Ag Census



Litter production rates calculated using Chamblee and Todd (2000) and Coufal et al. (2006), and farm manure rates from the 2002 Ag Census.

Most of the top twelve counties have adequate pasture and forage land to use poultry litter to meet crop nitrogen requirements. However, applying at crop phosphorus requirements would be challenging.

Almost all current broiler operations operate under state general permit:

- revised and effective December, 2005
- defined large vs. small CAFO's
- managers of large CAFO's (>125K broilers - about 25% of state CAFO's) must have 6 hours of continuing education annually

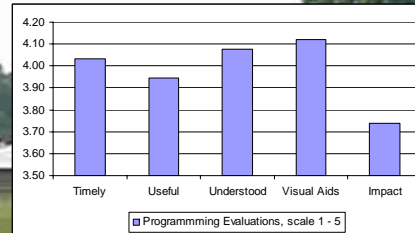
Statewide multiple stakeholder steering committee approves CE opportunities and suggests programming priorities

Emphasis on Nutrient Management in 2007 due to potential litter distribution issues from concentrated production and limited land base

Four locations "in person" in early 2007
Two video conferences available statewide in fall 2007

Curriculum:

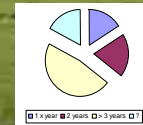
- Environmental issues, nutrient cycling
- Soils 101 and soil testing
- Litter nutrient levels, sampling, and spreading



Most attendees were satisfied with the program.

Most participants also completed voluntary questionnaires about various litter management options.

How often do you clean out your houses?

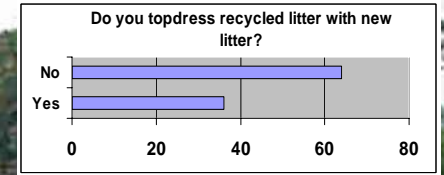


What do you do with your litter?

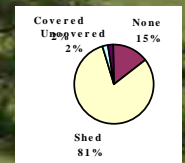
- 51 % apply only to hay and/or pasture fields
- 7 % apply to row crops
- 21 % pass out of operational control
 - only means of disposal of 6%
- 11 % give at least some of it away
 - only means of disposal of 4%

How often do you sample litter for nutrient content?

- 2 - 3 % sample more than twice a year
- 30 % sample litter 1X year
- 9 % sample every 2 years
- 11 % > every 2 years
- About 50 %: what's litter sampling?



How do you store litter?



Do you use any litter amendments?

47% yes

Location specific: therefore company specific

40% 23% 53% 80% by location

What particular litter amendment do you use?

- 19% dry alum
- 78% Poultry Litter Treatment
- small % PLT and Poultry Guard

More questions than answers?

- Do we have as much litter as we thought?
 - Long clean out schedules
 - Numerous storage facilities
 - Litter treatments are company-specific decisions
- Why are half the managers not sampling litter for nutrient content?
 - Almost all participants have NMP's, apparently many based on 'book' litter nutrient contents
- How is Nutrient Management being implemented?