

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency
Caroline County FSA Office
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**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR FARM LOAN PROGRAM PROJECT**

**Class II Assessment
for Maryland based producer with operations in
Caroline, Maryland at
Tax Map 0034, Grid 0003, Parcel 0018**

**Finding of No Significant Impact
(FONSI)**

May 22, 2015

COVER SHEET

Proposed Action: The Farm Service Agency of the United States Department of Agriculture proposes to issue a guaranteed loan to fund the construction of four poultry houses and the associated manure shed in Caroline County, Maryland on a farm tract identified as Tax Map 0034, Grid 0003, Parcel 0018.

Type of Statement: This is a Class II site-specific Environmental Assessment performed in conformation with the scope and limitations of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA.)

Lead Agency: Farm Service Agency (FSA) United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Cooperating Agencies: USDA, Farm Service Agency is tasked with completing the environmental analysis concerning this project. Input and assistance has been sought out by USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Caroline County Soil Conservation District who has worked with the applicant in regard to formulating an appropriate / nutrient waste management plan, as well as an appropriate conservation plan and wetland assessments as warranted.

The Maryland State Clearinghouse for Intergovernmental Assistance was consulted and input requested from their cooperating agencies including (but not limited to) the Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland Historical Trust /State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO), Natural Resources and Environment which also encompasses those charged with Coastal Zone Management (CZM.)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was similarly consulted as was the Maryland Department of the Environment in regard to the requisite Notice of Intent (NOI) for the Maryland General Discharge Permit for Animal Feeding Operations, applicable to Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO's) and Maryland Animal Feed Operations (MAFO's) which became effective December 1, 2009.

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Abstract (Summary): The purpose of the project is to produce integrated poultry in Caroline County, Maryland. Construction of four (4) poultry houses, each being 60' x 560', and a manure storage structure is proposed at the site. The location of the proposed facility is currently cropland. Upon completion of the proposed construction, the farm is projected to have the capacity to house a maximum of 192,000 birds based on the industry standard density of 0.75 birds per square foot of interior space.

Comments: While not required, it is recommended that comments be put in writing. Comments from interested parties concerning the environmental impact of this proposal should be directed thru:

USDA, Farm Service Agency
Farm Loan Program
Attn: Deanna Dunning
9194 Legion Road, Suite 2
Denton MD 21629

The comment period will conclude fifteen (15) days from the final publication of the Finding of NO Significant Impact (FONSI). No further action will be taken on this proposal until after the conclusion of the comment period. Said comments will be considered.

Table of Contents

	Page No.
1.0 Introduction	7
1.1 Background	7
1.2 Purpose and Need	7
1.3 Regulatory Compliance	7
1.4 Organization of EA	7
2.0 Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives	8
2.1 Proposed Action	8
2.2 Alternatives	8
2.2.1 No Action Alternative	
2.2.2 Alternative A	
2.2.3 Alternative B	
2.2.4 Alternative C	
2.2.5 Alternative D	
2.3 Resources Eliminated from Analysis	9
3.0 Affected Environment	9
3.1 Biological Resources	9
3.1.1 Definition of Resource	
3.1.2 Affected Environment	
3.2 Water Resources	10
3.2.1 Definition of Resource	
3.2.2 Affected Environment	
3.3 Cultural Resources	10
3.3.1 Definition of Resource	
3.2.2 Affected Environment	
3.4 Soil Resources	11
3.4.1 Definition of Resource	
3.4.2 Affected Environment	
3.5 Air Quality	11
3.5.1 Definition of Resource	
3.5.2 Affected Environment	
3.6 Socioeconomics	11
3.6.1 Definition of Resource	
3.6.2 Affected Environment	
3.7 Environmental Justice	12
3.7.1 Definition of Resource	
3.7.2 Affected Environment	
3.8 Important Land Resource	12
3.8.1 Definition of Resource	
3.8.2 Affected Environment	
3.9 Wilderness Area	12
3.9.1 Definition of Resource	
3.9.2 Affected Environment	

3.10 Coastal Zone Management Area	12
3.10.1 Definition of Resource	
3.10.2 Affected Environment	
3.11 Coastal Barriers	13
3.11.1 Definition of Resource	
3.11.2 Affected Environment	
4.0 Environmental Consequences	
4.1 Biological Resources	13
4.1.1 No Action Alternative	
4.1.2 Alternative A	
4.2 Water Resources	13
4.2.1 No Action Alternative	
4.2.2 Alternative A	
4.3 Cultural Resources	15
4.3.1 No Action Alternative	
4.3.2 Alternative A	
4.4 Soil Resources	15
4.3.1 No Action Alternative	
4.3.2 Alternative A	
4.5 Air Quality	15
4.4.1 No Action Alternative	
4.4.2 Alternative A	
4.6 Socioeconomics	17
4.6.1 No Action Alternative	
4.6.2 Alternative A	
4.7 Environmental Justice	17
4.7.1 No Action Alternative	
4.7.2 Alternative A	
4.8 Important Land Resources	17
4.8.1 No Action Alternative	
4.8.2 Alternative A	
4.9 Wilderness Area	17
4.9.1 No Action Alternative	
4.9.2 Alternative A	
4.10 Coastal Zone Management Area	17
4.10.1 No Action Alternative	
4.10.2 Alternative A	
4.11 Coastal Barriers	18
4.11.1 No Action Alternative	
4.11.2 Alternative A	
5.0 Cumulative Impacts	
5.1 Introduction	18
5.2 Past, Present & Reasonably Foreseeable Actions	18
5.3 Cumulative Analysis	18
6.0 Mitigation Measures	19
7.0 List of Preparers	19

8.0 List of Person and Agencies Contacted	19
9.0 References	19
10.0 List of Attachments	20
11.0 Consistency with FSA Environmental Policies	20
12.0 Environmental Determinations	20

1.0 Introduction

The applicant is wishing to enter into a contract to be an integrated poultry producer with the operation located at 26750 Anthony Mill Road, Caroline County, Maryland. The applicant will reside on the farm after the loan is closed. The applicant will produce poultry per a contractual agreement with Allens Harim. The operation will have the capacity to house approximately 192,000 birds at the industry standard of .75 birds per square foot.

1.1 Background

The project is designed to construct four (4) broiler houses and the associated manure structure on a 114.9 acre parcel the applicant is purchasing near Denton, Maryland. The site will have a capacity of 192,000 birds at the industry standard of .75 birds per square foot. The proposal is to build four (4) poultry houses, each being 60' x 560', with all houses on the property running northwest to southeast. The houses will be built to industry standards and be compliant with all county and state building laws. A storm water management plan/site plan has been approved by Caroline County Soil Conservation District and documentation obtained indicating the plan is acceptable for Caroline County Planning and Codes.

1.2 Purpose and Need

The applicant will be the primary beneficiary of the project. The facilities, upon completion, will allow the applicant to produce integrated poultry in an Allens Harim compliant facility in Caroline County, Maryland. The applicant will be providing an agriculture service that is in great demand and this enterprise will allow the producer to generate adequate income from the farming operation to retire debt and provide a standard of living acceptable to the area. This facility will allow the applicant to produce integrated poultry for Allens Harim efficiently and in up to date structures. The integrator, will in turn, provide additional employment for local people in jobs such as field representatives, feed mill operators, processing plant workers, truck drivers, and construction workers. In addition, the increased volume of poultry production will help contribute toward providing a readily available low cost food supply for the American public.

1.3 Regulatory Compliance

Based on a review of the material provided and FSA Handbook 1 EQ, 2 EQ, and FMHA 1940-G this proposal is in compliance with NEPA, CEQ, Potential Relevant Environmental Laws, and Executive Orders.

1.4 Organization of EA

The Environmental Assessment (EA) is organized in format established in FSA Handbook 1 EQ Exhibit 21 and is addressed in the Contents Section of this document.

2. Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

Alternative designs and alternative projects were considered and here are our findings in regards to this proposal: Alternative designs are not feasible in that every integrator has a specific set of plans and specs that producers must use to ensure placement of birds. Alternative projects were considered but are not feasible for the applicant because this proposal is located in close proximity to Allens Harim hatcheries, feed mills, and processing facilities and is in an area occupied by numerous other Allens Harim producers. This makes it economically feasible for Allens Harim to provide birds, and more likely that the applicant will retain the contract with the integrator. In analyzing the proposal "No Action" was considered but not a selected option.

2.1 Proposed Action

The project is designed to construct four (4) poultry houses compliant with Allens Harim standards on a 114.9 acre tract near Denton, Maryland. Upon completion, the site will have a total capacity of 192,000 birds. The site work will be completed and the houses built by local reputable contractors in accordance with plans and specs required by Allens Harim, Caroline County Soil Conservation District and the Caroline County Planning and Zoning office. The proposal includes the construction of a manure storage structure that will provide adequate storage for the litter generated by the houses to be built. A storm water management pond will be installed on the property as well as swales located between the poultry houses to control runoff. The site plan was designed in accordance with the Model Standard Plan for Poultry House Site Development on Maryland's Eastern Shore, developed by MDE, MDA, NRCS, and the Conservation Districts.

2.2 Alternatives

Alternative designs and alternative projects were considered and here are our findings in regards to this proposal:

There were five alternatives considered for this project. These alternatives were developed after careful consideration of the proposed project and determining the best possible location for the proposed project that would produce the least possible environmental impact and minimize impact on the operation itself. These alternatives represent a range of alternatives, with three alternatives being eliminated from further analysis.

2.2.1 No Action Alternative. The no action alternative would consist of FSA not approving the loan and thus, not allowing the construction of the proposed project. This alternative would not allow the applicant to generate the farm income required to support their family and debt service.

2.2.2 Alternative A is a proposed action alternative. Under the proposed action alternative, FSA would approve the loan as proposed, allowing the proposed construction to provide related farm income for the applicant.

2.2.3 Alternative B is to relocate on current property: This alternative is not applicable as any other location on the farm would require removal of forested areas, filling of ditches and the potential to negatively impact any wetlands that may be located in those areas. The area that has been selected for the proposal is currently an open area that will not require any tree or stump removal or affect any wetlands. It is located the farthest distant from any point water sources on the property (Watts Creek and Drainage Tile located in the field).

2.2.4 Alternative C is to relocate on a different property. The applicant has entered into a contract to purchase the 114.90 acre tract and invested capital into the development and approval of the site plan and applicable permits. The feasibility for this project has been based on the purchase price of the project and without having another specific property in mind, FSA cannot determine the feasibility for another farm. In addition, without a second property to compare, FSA cannot substantiate that the other tract would have no significant impact on environmental resources over the tract in question.

2.2.5 Alternative D is to engage in a different form of agricultural production: The applicant could consider utilization of the site for crop or other livestock production as an alternative means of generating annual farm income. However, the rate of return the applicant would receive from another form of livestock production or crop production would be nominal compared to the proposed project and would not justify the related costs of purchasing equipment, supplies, etc: therefore it would not achieve the intended purpose of the project which is to provide for family living expenses and satisfy debt service.

2.3 Resources Eliminated from Analysis

None of the following resources are located in the area of the proposed project and are therefore eliminated from the analysis: Important Land Resources, Sole Source Aquifers, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Natural Landmarks, and Wilderness Areas.

3. Affected Environment

3.1 Biological Resources

3.1.1 Definition of Resource

Vegetation, wildlife, and protected species including threatened and endangered species and their designated critical habitat. Endangered

species known to occur in Caroline County: no critical habitats or endangered species are within the vicinity of the proposed project.

3.1.2 Affected Environment

Based on a letter dated December 29, 2014 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chesapeake Bay Field Office, no federally proposed or listed endangered or threatened species are known to exist or will be affected by the proposal.

A site visit was made by FSA personnel to the proposed construction site area on April 21, 2015 and no listed threatened or endangered species were identified as present at that time, nor were any nesting Bald Eagles found. Except for occasional transient wildlife, no proposed or federally listed endangered or threatened species are believed to exist within the project impact area.

3.2 Water Resources

3.2.1 Definition of Resource

Floodplains, wetlands, surface water quality, sole source aquifers, and wild and scenic rivers.

3.2.2 Affected Environment

Surface waters as defined by EPA, are United States waters; primarily lakes, rivers estuaries, coastal waters and wetlands. The Clean Water Act is the principal law governing pollution of the nation's surface water resources.

Based on a determination made by NRCS on March 20, 1995 there were no hydric soils located on this tract. Based on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory there are no wetlands located in the proposed project site.

Also according to FEMA Form 81-93 "Standard Flood Hazard Determination" there are no floodplains on this tract.

This project is not located within a Sole Source Aquifer Recharge Area, nor are there any Wild and Scenic Rivers located in the State of Maryland per reviewing the following website (<http://www.nps.gov/rivers/>).

3.3 Cultural Resources

3.3.1 Definition of Resource

Properties created by man and generally more than 50 years of age.

3.3.2 Affected Environment

In accordance with Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act, the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) was contacted to comply with cultural resource requirements.

3.4 Soil Resources

3.4.1 Definition of Resource

Highly Erodible Soils are not present within the area of impact.

3.4.2 Affected Environment

According to NRCS-CPA-026E, Highly Erodible Lane (HEL) units do not exist on the 114.9 acre tract and therefore will not have effect on this resource.

3.5 Air Quality

3.5.1 Definition of Resource

Sources of air pollution which include stationary, mobile and agricultural resources.

3.5.2 Affected Environment

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) monitors and regulates air quality in the State per the mandates of the Federal Clean Air Act, the Maryland Healthy Air Act and the Code of Maryland Regulations for Air and Radiation (COMAR.)

The majority of emissions (dust and odor) as a result of this project will be produced from application of poultry litter, which will be done so in accordance with the Nutrient Management Plan. Motor vehicle traffic will increase slightly during the construction phase; however, this will only be for a short period of time. The 200 KW emergency generator does not require a permit, will meet applicable EPA emissions standards and will use only low sulfur fuel.

The farm is located in a Non-Attainment area as can be verified by review of the following website
(<http://www.epa.gov/oar/oagups/greenblk/hncs.html>)

Open burning is strictly regulated by the state and accordingly the waste and refuse generated on site from construction, or ongoing operations, will be removed and not burned.

3.6 Socioeconomics

3.6.1 Definition of Resource

Population, housing, income and employment activity area.

3.6.2 Affected Environment

The proposal for an individual farm operation, during construction and at completion, will not adversely impact nearby residents per FSA Handbook 1 EQ Par 57D. The site is in rural Caroline County and located approximately 2.7 miles from the Town of Denton. The current residence will be occupied by the applicant at time of loan closing. The proposal will not change the population in the area; therefore it will not have any impact on the public, community schools, hospitals, social services, etc. Basic land use will not change.

3.7 Environmental Justice

3.7.1 Definition of Resource

Impact to minority and low income populations.

3.7.2 Affected Environment

According to 1 EQ, Par 58 C, FSA actions do not involve activities with potential to disproportionately or adversely affect or displace low income or minority groups.

3.8 Important Land Resources

3.8.1 Definition of Resource

Prime farmland, unique farmland, prime forestland, and prime rangeland

3.8.2 Affected Environment

This proposed project will not convert any important farmland to a nonagricultural use and is therefore exempt from the provisions of this act.

3.9 Wilderness Area

3.9.1 Definition of Resource

Areas determined to be "wilderness" as defined by The Wilderness Act.

3.9.2 Affected Environment

This project is not located within or near a Wilderness Area per review of www.wilderness.net website.

3.10 Coastal Zone Management Areas

3.10.1 Definition of Resources

Lands, waters, or natural resources located in the coastal zone.

3.10.2 Affected Environment

FSA will not participate in any action that does not preserve and protect the nation's coastal resources. Policy is to conform to the goals and objectives of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) and the Executive Orders of the State of Maryland. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Coastal Program, Watershed Services, Tawes State Office Building, E-2, 580 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, Md, 21401 and (410-260-8732) administers this program and maintains area

boundary maps. This project is located within the Coastal Zone Management area.

3.11 Coastal Barriers

3.11.1 Definition of Resources

Unique landforms that provide protection for diverse aquatic habitats and serve as the mainland's first line of defense against the impacts of coastal storms and erosion.

3.11.2 Affected Environment

CBRA was amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 and restricts Federal expenditures and financial assistance that may encourage development of coastal barriers. This project is not located in the Coastal Barrier Resource Zone or Other Protected area and therefore will not have an adverse effect on this resource.

4.0 Environmental Consequences

4.1 Biological Resources

4.1.1 No Action Alternative was considered but not selected as proposal will not adversely impact the environment

4.1.2 Alternative A: The USFWS was formally consulted for their concurrence. A copy of their response dated December 29, 2014, is found in Appendix D affirming no further consultation or Biological Assessment is required. Based on these findings, FSA has determined, in coordination with the USFWS that there are no listed endangered or threatened species within this projects area of impact.

4.2 Water Resources

4.2.1 No Action Alternative was considered but not selected as proposal will not have an adverse environmental impact.

4.2.2 Alternative A: The project was reviewed to determine migratory pathways for surface and ground water and potential impacts on both surface water and groundwater. The two major nutrients of concern are phosphorus and nitrogen which are water soluble. The subject property is located within the Upper Choptank Watershed which is part of the larger Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The subject site is not situated within the 100 year flood plan.

The potential impact to water quality exists due to construction activities. During construction, surface runoff will be controlled in accordance with the NPDES Storm Water Permit that will be obtained at time of issuance

of building permit to occur once property transfer has occurred. Site plan approved by Caroline County Conservation District and a letter from the Caroline County Department of Planning and Codes can be found in Appendix E indicating storm water plan meets county guidelines.

The major concern with a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) is the contamination of surface and groundwater by animal waste. Accordingly, the project's operators will be required to follow the approved, site specific, conservation plan and nutrient management plan which addresses animal waste management. It was developed by NRCS and the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension for the operation, and reviewed and approved by both NRCS and the Caroline County Soil Conservation District and the Caroline County Extension Agent. The documents will be on file with the Maryland Department of Agriculture once the ownership transfer has taken place. It is also part of the requirements of the Maryland Department of the Environment for their Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permit. The practices outlined in this approved plan includes a covered animal mortality facility, construction of heavy use area pads at locations where manure will be handled and construction of a covered waste storage facility, will allow the operators to apply best management practices on the farm and to sufficiently control any runoff from the operation so that water quality will not be adversely impacted. The applicant will file for a Notice of Intent with the Maryland Department of Environment for the proposed poultry operation once ownership of the property is transferred.

This farm will be operated under the specifications of the approved conservation plan. This is a dry litter operation and not a wet litter operation. Litter will be removed from the farm by a local farmer and the requisite records kept for inspection and monitoring. Any litter stored will be done so in accordance with the NRCS and MDE approved NMP plan in a fashion that prevents the litter from being leached until it can be properly disposed of.

There are roadside, tax and/or private ditches on and bordering the project site. The storm water management plan was designed so there will be no discharge from the operation into waters of the state. This plan is the Model Standard Plan for Poultry House Site Development on Maryland's Eastern Shore developed by MDE, MDA, NRCS, and SCD's. It will ensure that surface water is not significantly adversely impacted by the proposed poultry operation in that it is required to meet specific technical standards designed to minimize the transport of nitrogen and phosphorus to surface water. Per the NMP the manure generated on the farm will be utilized by a local farmer in accordance with the NMP developed for their operation, thus to reduce the effect on ground and surface water. Runoff created as a result of precipitation is considered a nonpoint source and is

not considered a point source of pollution according to the Clean Water Act.

Water for the completed project will be supplied by a well located on the farm. Per MDE Water Division, no water allocation permit is required for this operation.

There are no sole source aquifers or wild and scenic rivers located on or adjacent to this property.

4.3 Cultural Resources

4.3.1 No Action Alternative was considered but not selected as proposal will not have an adverse environmental impact.

4.3.2 Alternative A: According to the response received from the Maryland Clearing House dated January 28, 2015, whom consulted with SHPO the proposed project site does not contain any historical properties; therefore there will be no adverse effect as a result of this project.

4.4 Soil Resources

4.4.1 No action alternative was considered but not selected as proposal will not have an adverse environmental impact.

4.4.2 Alternative A: According to NRCSA-CPA-026E, HEL units do not exist on the 59.95 acre tract.

4.5 Air Quality

4.5.1 No action alternative was considered but not selected as proposal will not adversely impact the environment.

4.5.2 Alternative A: The farm is located in a rural area and odor from the poultry facility is not measurable or regulated in the County or State. Consultation was made with Maryland Department of Environment Air and Radiation Program; there are no permits required for a poultry operation and if the applicant follows the best management practices outlined in the conservation plan the applicants will be in compliance with regulations.

Dilution of odors is caused through the mixing of odors with ambient air. This dilution of odorous air is a function of distance, topography, and meteorological conditions. Topographical features can either enhance dilution or reduce dilution of odors depending on the particular features. Wind breaks, vegetative buffers or tree lines will enhance CO₂ / O₂ exchange and thus encourage mixing of the odorous air with clean air, and when coupled with the distance of the poultry houses from the public, shall result in intermittent local minimal odor impacts. Based on the

climate of the eastern seaboard of the United States, there will be a few days in the year where weather conditions can cause odor to hang in the area, however, this will be a short term non-significant impact. Odors and particulate drift are unlikely to be significant with the applicant adhering to the best management practices outlined in the conservation and nutrient management plan. Due to concerns from the neighbors a vegetative buffer will be required around the perimeter of the poultry houses to serve as a filter for dust and odorous compounds. The applicant has met the Caroline County Zoning requirements of being at least 200' from the property lines. By maximizing the distance between potential odor sources and the public, the potential for odor complaints will be minimal.

The use of the management practices specified in the approved conservation plan will serve to reduce objectionable odors. The poultry houses will be cleaned out per integrator specifications and top crusted between flocks on an as-needed basis. Poultry waste / litter will be removed from the site, and will only be stored on the property in a temporary or emergency situation. The plan provides for the construction of adequate litter / manure storage capacity and addresses the proper handling of this stored material. The manure storage structure will be covered thus reducing the potential for the manure to become wet. Good management of the ventilation system within the poultry houses will aid in the reduction of humidity, which is a cause of objectionable odors.

Dust generated while the poultry facility is in operation will occur mostly during feeding, with the dust being controlled by a mist system in the houses and interior fans.

Construction activities will generate minor localized dust problems that will be temporary in nature with no significant long-term impact on air quality after completion of the construction phase. If conditions become too dusty during construction, soil may be wet down to control fugitive dust. Short term localized temporary air pollution will occur from the potential heavy machinery associated with constructing pads for the poultry houses; however, these emissions will not have a significant or even long-term adverse impact on the local community or surrounding environment. Appropriate driveways will be put in place using best management practices to allow for delivery trucks three to four times per week and for others to enter and exit the farm as needed while minimizing dust impacts.

Open burning is strictly regulated by the state and accordingly the waste and refuse generated on site from construction, or ongoing operations, will be removed and not burned. If burning is conducted it will be with an approved burning permit from the Maryland Department of Natural Resource Forest Service. Bird mortality will not be incinerated but disposed of via the more environmentally favorable method of composting.

Existing air quality in the area is considered good and will remain so after the proposed poultry operation is up and running.

4.6 Socioeconomics

4.6.1 No Action Alternative was considered but not selected as proposal will not adversely impact the environment.

4.6.2 Alternative A: The social and economic impacts of FSA actions will be evaluated on the programmatic level by the National Office. Based on FSA Handbook 1 EQ Par 57 D, the project is limited to an individual farm operation and there will be no significant affect to the population numbers, housing units, income or employment for the area.

4.7 Environmental Justice

4.7.1 No Action Alternative was considered but not selected as proposal will not adversely impact the environment.

4.7.2 Alternative A: Based on FSA Handbook 1 EQ par 58C, FSA actions do not involve activities with potential to disproportionately or adversely affect or displace low income or minority groups.

4.8 Important Land Resources

4.8.1 No action alternative was considered but not selected as proposal will not adversely impact the environment.

4.8.2 Alternative A: This project does not directly or indirectly convert any important land resources. Production of integrated poultry is considered an agriculture enterprise.

4.9 Wilderness Area

4.9.1 No action alternative was considered but not selected as proposal will not adversely impact the environment.

4.9.2 Alternative A: Project is not located within or near a Wilderness Area per review of the wilderness.net website.

4.10 Coastal Zone Management Areas

4.10.1 No action alternative was considered but not selected as proposal will not adversely impact the environment.

4.10.2 Alternative A: The project is located in a Coastal Zone Management Area and therefore the Maryland Department of Environment and Natural Resources was consulted. Per the comments received the applicant will follow best management practices outlined in the conservation plan that has been approved by the local NRCS office.

There will be neither adverse impacts on estuaries nor roadside or public ditches. A storm water management and sediment and erosion control plan has been approved by the Caroline County Soil Conservation District and considered acceptable by the Caroline County department of Planning & Codes. Per the storm water plan there is no proposed discharge to the waters of the state for this operation. The applicant, upon obtaining ownership to the property, will file a Notice of Intent with MDE for the General Discharge Permit. The Maryland Department of Environment has determined the proposal to be consistent with the Maryland Coastal Zone Management Program as required by Section 307 of the CZMA.

There will be no adverse impacts on estuaries or roadside or public ditches.

4.11 Coastal Barriers

4.11.1 No Action Alternative was considered but not selected as proposal will not adversely impact the environment.

4.11.2 Alternative A: The project is not located in a Coastal Barrier Resource Area nor an Other Protected Area as can be evident by the flood map.

5.0 Cumulative Impacts

5.1 Introduction

This section of the assessment is dedicated to the review of the possible cumulative impacts the applicant's proposed activity may present in the Caroline County area. Based on the review of information provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, SHPO, MDE, MDT, MDNR, NRCS, Caroline County Soil Conservation District and various websites, it does not appear that this project will have an adverse impact on the Caroline County environment provided producer follows the Best Management Practices (BMP's) outlined by participating agencies.

5.2 Past, Present and Reasonably Foreseeable Actions

To the knowledge of the preparer, there has not been any past activity associated with the subject property that would have had a negative effect on impacted resources. The proposed is a localized project of limited scope; therefore the environmental factors will be minimal and further mitigated by the conformance with the provisions of a site specific and approved conservation plan and nutrient management plan designed to address the animal waste generated by confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) and best management practices.

5.3 Cumulative Analysis

Any minor localized negative impacts the creation of this poultry operation may have on the human environment will be minimized by the proper implementation and adherence with the provisions of the approved conservation plan devised for the CAFO operation and will be on file with the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) and Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), as well as compliance with applicable State and County permitting processes and setback requirements.

6.0 Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures have been identified throughout this assessment in the various areas of impact. These measures will be agreed to by the operator and appropriate State and Federal Agencies and will be part of the FSA's conditions for loan approval. The implementation of the approved conservation plan and nutrient management plan will be used to control potential problems that have been identified throughout this assessment; this along with the implementation of industry best management construction practices are appropriate mitigation measures for agricultural construction projects similar in nature to the proposed project.

7.0 List of Preparers

This assessment was prepared by Deanna Dunning, in consultation with Joseph Scott, Maryland State Environmental Coordinator, who have worked closely with FSA's sister agency, NRCS, Caroline County Conservation District, the Maryland State Clearinghouse for Intergovernmental Assistance and the Maryland Department of the Environment in gathering information for evaluation as guided by FSA Handbook 1 EQ.

8.0 List of Persons and Agencies Contacted

Maryland Department of Planning - Maryland Department of Agriculture, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of the Environment, Caroline County, Maryland Historical Trust, Maryland Department of Transportation, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chesapeake Bay Field Office

9.0 References

Websites:

www.wilderness.net

www.rivers.gov/maryland.php

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/gfd/states/24/24045.html>

<http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program/coastal-barrier-resources-system>

www.epa.gov/oar/oaqps/greenbk/hncs.html

www.epa.gov/req3wapd/presentations/ssa/index/htm
<http://www.mde.maryland.gov/programs/Land/RecyclingandOperationsprogram/AFO/Pages/CAFO.aspx>
http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/countySearchSpeciesByCountyReport.action?fips=24045
www.nature.nps.gov/nnl/state.cfm?state=MD

FSA Handbook 1 EQ – Environmental Quality Programs for State and County Offices, published and maintained by United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, Washington D. C. 20250

Farmer's Home Administration (FmHA) Instruction 1940-G, Environmental Program, published and maintained by United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, Washington, D. C. 20205.

10.0 Attachments

Appendix A – Acronyms & Abbreviations
Appendix B – Definitions
Appendix C – Relevant Laws & Regulations
Appendix D – Agencies & Individuals Contacted
Appendix E – Supporting Documentation

11.0 Consistency with FSA Environmental Policies

There is nothing to indicate the proposed project would not be in keeping with the environmental policies of 1-EQ.

12.0 Environmental Determinations

The following recommendations shall be completed:

- (a) Based on an examination and review of the foregoing information and such supplemental information attached hereto, I recommend that the approving official determine that this project will have () a significant effect on the quality of the human environment and an Environmental Impact Statement must be prepared. This project will not have () a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.
- (b) I recommend that the approving official make the following compliance determinations for the below-listed environmental requirements.

Not in Compliance	In Compliance	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clean Air Act
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Federal Water Pollution Control Act
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Safe Drinking Water Act - Section 1424 (e)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Endangered Species Act
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Coastal Barrier Resources Act
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Coastal Zone Management Act - Section 307(c) (1) and (2)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National Historic Preservation Act
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Archaeological and Historical Preservation Act
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Subtitle B, Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Subtitle C, Wetland Conservation of the Food Security Act
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Farmlands Protection Policy Act
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Departmental Regulation 9500-3, Land Use Policy
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	E.O. 12898, Environmental Justice
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State environmental laws

(c) I have reviewed and considered the types and degrees of adverse environmental impacts identified by this assessment. I have also analyzed the proposal for its consistency with FSA environmental policies, particularly those related to important farmland protection, and have considered the potential benefits of the proposal.

Based upon a consideration and a balancing of these factors, I recommend from an environmental standpoint that the project:

- Be approved
- Not be approved because of the reasons outlined in Appendix E.

DEANNA
DUNNING

Digitally signed by DEANNA DUNNING
DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government,
ou=Department of Agriculture, cn=DEANNA
DUNNING,
0.9.2342.19200300.1.00.1.1=12001000283584
Date: 2015.05.22 08:16:23 -0400'

05/22/2015

Signature of Preparer

Date

Deanna Dunning
Name of Preparer

Farm Loan Officer
Title of Preparer

***See Part 1 of this handbook for listing of officials responsible for preparing assessment.**

George M. Turner, Jr. 5/24/2015
Signature of Concurring Official Date
George M. Turner, Jr.
Name of Concurring Official
District Director
Title of Concurring Official

State Environmental Coordinator's Review

I have reviewed this environmental assessment and supporting documentation. Following are my positions regarding its adequacy and the recommendations reached by the preparer. For any matter in which I do not concur, my reasons are attached in Appendix E.

- | Do Not Concur | Concur | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Adequate Assessment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Impact Determination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Compliance Determinations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Project Recommendation |

Joseph J. Scott 5/26/15
Signature of SEC Date
Joseph Scott
Name of SEC

Digitally signed by JOSEPH SCOTT
DN: c=US, o=US Government, ou=Department of Agriculture,
ou=JOSEPH SCOTT, ou=23427920030010011, +12001000134351
Date: 2015.05.26 09:24:56 -0400
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