

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency
Caroline County FSA Office
9194 Legion Road, Suite 2
Denton MD 21629
(410) 479-1202

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR FARM LOAN PROGRAM PROJECT**

**Class II Assessment
for Maryland based producer with operations in
Caroline County, Maryland at
Tax Map 0046, Grid 0019, Parcel 0095**

**Notice of Availability
(NOA)**

December 11, 2015

COVER SHEET

Proposed Action

The Farm Service Agency of the United States Department of Agriculture Has received a request to subordinate the lien position securing the Farm Service Agency's existing direct farm ownership loan for the construction of one poultry house and storm water retention pond on an existing poultry operation in Caroline County, Maryland on a farm tract identified as Tax Map 0046, Grid 0019, Parcel 0095.

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 is being sought out by USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); Caroline County Soil Conservation District; the Maryland State Clearinghouse for Intergovernmental Assistance who consults with and request input from their cooperating agencies including (but not limited to) the Maryland Historical Trust /State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO,) State Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental which also encompasses those charged with Coastal Zone Management (CZM), and Maryland Department of Transportation; as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Further Information

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Abstract (Summary)

The purpose of the project is to produce integrated poultry in Caroline County, Maryland. Construction of one (1) poultry houses, being 63' x 500', and storm

water management pond is proposed at the site. The location of the proposed facility is currently cropland. The operation currently has two existing houses, each being 40' x 500', one poultry house being 40' x 400', and a manure storage shed. Upon completion of the proposed construction, the farm is projected to have the capacity to house a maximum of 116,666 birds based on the industry standard density of 0.75 birds per square foot of interior space.

Comments

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 Notice of Availability (NOA). No further action will be taken on this proposal until after the conclusion of the comment period and the completion of the review. Said comments will be considered and incorporated.

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Introduction

The applicant is wishing to expand their integrated poultry producer with the operation located at 21110 Tanyard Road, Preston, Maryland, Caroline County. The applicant currently does and will continue to produce poultry per a contractual agreement with Perdue Farms. The operation will have the capacity to house approximately 116,666 birds at the industry standard of .75 birds per square foot.

1.1 Background

The project is designed to construct one (1) broiler house and a storm water management pond on a 109.48 acre parcel the applicant currently owns and operates an existing poultry operation on near Preston, Maryland. The site will have a capacity of 116,666 birds at the industry standard of .75 birds per square foot. The proposal is to build one (1) poultry houses, being 63' x 500', with all houses on the property running southeast to northwest. The houses will be built to industry standards and must be compliant with all county and state building laws. An approved storm water management plan, site and sediment/erosion control plan, permit for General Stormwater Discharge, Conservation Plan, Nutrient Management Plan, and a Federal Consistency Determination will be required prior to the issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact.

1.2 Purpose and Need

The purpose of the FSA Farm Loan Program is to establish, improve, expand transition, and strengthen farms.

The proposed facility, upon completion, will allow the applicant to produce integrated poultry in a Perdue Farms 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 Perdue Farms 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

2.1 Proposed Action

The project is designed to construct one (1) poultry houses compliant with Perdue Farms standards on a 109.48 acre tract near Preston, Maryland. Upon completion, the site will have a total capacity of 116,666 birds. The site work will be completed and the houses built by local reputable contractors in accordance with plans and specs required by Perdue Farms, Caroline County Soil Conservation District and the Caroline County Planning and Zoning office. 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 Plan for Poultry House Site Development on Maryland's Eastern Shore, developed by MDE, MDA, NRCS and the Conservation Districts.