

**United States Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
for**

**Establishment of New Poultry Operation - Sussex County, DE
Tax map #132-9.00-8.00**

The United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (FSA) has prepared a Final Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the environmental consequences associated with implementing the subject proposal. The primary objective is to enable a landowner to construct eight poultry houses in the general vicinity of Double Fork Rd. near Greenwood, Delaware.

Proposed Action

The proposed action would implement the subject proposal; thus enabling the property owner to construct eight poultry houses in the general vicinity of 12474 Double Fork Road, near Greenwood, Delaware. The construction site is currently cleared cropland and woodland. Alternatives analyzed in this EA include the No Action Alternative, Proposed Action Alternative, Relocate on Current Property, Relocate to Different Property, and Engage in a Different Form of Agricultural Production. No alternative investigated, other than the Proposed Action Alternative, afforded the farm owner/operator a feasible means to enter into integrated poultry production as a means to provide for her livelihood, or to contribute to the local economy and tax base for which the poultry industry is a mainstay, or to contribute to the nation's food supply.

Environmental Impacts

The following potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed action, and compensating mitigation measures to eliminate potential impacts, were addressed as part of the Environmental Assessment:

1. Air Quality- Adherence to Federal, State, and County set-back requirements, formulation of a site-specific Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan, utilization of poultry industry best management practices such as windbreaks and shelterbelts, and utilization of construction best management practices will reduce or eliminate any potential negative air quality impacts due to the proposed construction project and the long-term operation of the poultry houses.
2. Water Quality; including ground water, surface water, and sole source aquifers- Adherence to a site-specific Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan, adherence to a site-specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan/Permit, utilization of poultry best management practices, adherence to Delaware CAFO NPDES permit requirements, and adherence to appropriate set-back and buffer requirements will reduce or eliminate any potential negative water quality impacts due to the proposed construction project and the long-term operation of the poultry houses.
3. Solid Waste Management- Adherence to a site-specific Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan, utilization of a Certified Animal Waste Handler to remove and

operation, and outages rarely occur because of over usage. The poultry houses will have a high-efficiency, low emissions, and low-sulfur fuel backup generator that will be capable of operating the houses should there be a loss of electrical power.

10. Other Special Issues; including Noise and Aesthetic Considerations - Construction noise will be localized, create minimal disturbance, occur only during daylight hours, and should only last approx. 3-6 months. Noise may be generated by the occasional use of the generator during power outages and approx. once per week for 10-15 minutes for preventative maintenance. Adherence to county zoning ordinances and set back requirements, using best management practices and industry standards will minimize any visual impact from the roadway or other properties.

Determination

According to the National Environmental Policy Act and FSA's environmental regulations at 7 CFR Part 799 and 7 CFR 1940 subpart G implementing the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality, 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, I find that the proposed action is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, no environmental impact statement will be prepared.

Approved: Joseph Scott 10/5/16
Signature Date
Joseph Scott
Name
SEC
Title