

## New Arkansas Laws Regulate Use and Management of Poultry Litter and Other Nutrients

Carla Vaught, H.L. Goodwin, Jr., Frank T. Jones, Susan Janie S. Hipp, Mike Daniels, and Tom L. Riley

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE  
AGRICULTURE



The Cossatot River

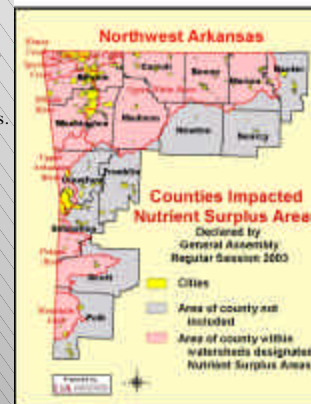
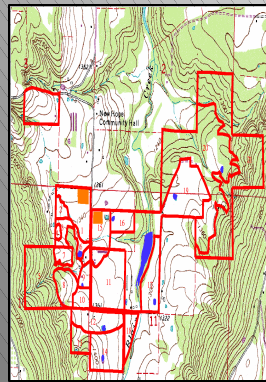
### INTRODUCTION

Using poultry litter on pastures as fertilizer is a routine practice in Western Arkansas. Three laws were enacted in 2003 by the Arkansas General Assembly to regulate this practice. The goal of this new legislation is to preserve water quality in the state without creating an unnecessary burden on agricultural interests. The legislation has three major components: 1) registration for poultry operations, 2) certification for nutrient management planners, and 3) nutrient applicator certification in nutrient sensitive watersheds. All three Acts go into effect on January 1, 2004 and will affect Arkansas poultry producers. The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.



### Act 1061: An Act to Require Proper Application of Nutrients and Utilization of Poultry Litter in Nutrient Surplus Areas

In nutrient sensitive watersheds (at right), producers will be required to obtain and implement nutrient management plans to ensure the proper application of nutrients.



The other major requirement of this Act is that those who apply nutrients on land areas greater than 2.5 acres will have to obtain a private nutrient applicator certification



### Act 1060: An Act to Register Poultry Feeding Operations

All poultry feeding operation where a minimum of 2,500 poultry are housed or confined and fed will have to register with the State. Required registration information includes number of houses, location, litter management system, amount of litter stored, acreage of operation where litter applications are made, the poultry companies with whom the contracts are with, and land application practices.

Registration will be on an annual basis with a \$10.00 registration fee. Failure to register will be subject to penalties.

### Act 1059: Arkansas Soil Nutrient Management Planner and Applicator Certification Act

This Act requires that nutrient management planners be trained and certified by the State of Arkansas. Nutrient management plans will not be approved by the State unless it is prepared by a certified planner

This Act also requires that nutrient applicators in nutrient-sensitive watersheds receive training and certification from the State to lawfully apply nutrients in that watershed. This applies to both animal manures and commercial fertilizers.

### THE ROLE OF EXTENSION

The Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission is the agency in charge of implementing and enforcing these regulations. In a cooperative agreement, the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service will be providing the training and the certification testing provided for by Act 1059 (Above).

Locally, County Extension offices will deliver educational programs to inform landowners and producers about this new legislation and the requirements. They will also assist with education to optimize nutrient utilization and environmental stewardship. The County offices will continue to provide services such as soil, litter, and water testing and interpretation for producers and certified nutrient management planners.