



Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO STATE LAWS AFFECTING TEXAS POULTRY PRODUCERS

Senate Bill 1339, 77th Session of the Texas Legislature

Authored by Senator Ogden (Bryan, TX)
Signed on March 8, 2001
Became effective on September 1, 2001
Amended Section 26.302 of the Texas Water Code



More
Details
on Other
Side!!

Requires all persons who own or operate a poultry facility to implement and maintain a water quality management plan that is certified by the State Soil and Water Conservation Board.

House Bill 3355, 77th Session of the Texas Legislature

Authored by Representative McReynolds (Lufkin, TX)
Signed on March 9, 2001
Became effective on September 1, 2001
Amended Section 201.026 of the Texas Agriculture Code

Removes the requirement for landowners to record the burial of animal carcasses in county deed records if the landowner requests and complies with a water quality management plan certified by the State Soil and Water Conservation Board.

House Bill 3673, 77th Session of the Texas Legislature

Authored by Representative Swinford (Amarillo, TX)
Signed on April 10, 2001
Became effective on September 1, 2001
Amended Section 165.026 of the Texas Agriculture Code

Prohibits the feeding of restricted garbage (which includes cooked and uncooked poultry mortality) to swine under any circumstances.

If you have any questions regarding these or other state laws related to poultry facilities, please contact a State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) Office. To request a water quality management plan (WQMP), please contact your local soil and water conservation district (SWCD) office (see other side for more contact information).

TSSWCB Headquarters

311 North 5th Street
P. O. Box 658
Temple, Texas 76503
(254) 773-2250

TSSWCB-Dublin Regional Office

611 East Black Jack
Dublin, Texas 76446-2321
(254) 445-4814/4815

TSSWCB-Hale Center Regional Office

1201 Avenue E.
P. O. Box 848
Hale Center, Texas 79041
(806) 839-1030

TSSWCB-Harlingen Regional Office

1826 West Jefferson
Harlingen, Texas 78550
(956) 421-5841

TSSWCB-Mount Pleasant Regional Office

1809 West Ferguson, Suite B
Mount Pleasant, Texas 75455
(903) 572-4471/4472

TSSWCB-Wharton Regional Office

1120 Hodges Lane
Wharton, Texas 77488
(979) 532-9496/9497

What Poultry Producers Should Know About Senate Bill 1339

Who is affected?

Senate Bill 1339 impacts persons who own or operate (or are planning to own or operate) a poultry facility.

How will producers be affected?

The bill requires all poultry producers to implement and maintain a water quality management plan (WQMP) that has been certified by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB). Producers who are not currently operating according to a certified WQMP must have a plan developed according to the following schedule:

Date of Initial Facility Operation	Plan Submission Date
On or after January 1, 2002	Before receipt of birds
January 1, 1993 – December 31, 2001	Before January 1, 2002
January 1, 1988 – December 31, 1992	Before January 1, 2003
January 1, 1983 – December 31, 1987	Before January 1, 2005
December 31, 1982 or earlier	Before January 1, 2008

The WQMP does not need to be certified before the listed date. However, the application for a WQMP must be submitted to the appropriate local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board by the required submission date.

What is a WQMP?

A WQMP is a voluntary plan developed through SWCDs in which landowners or operators address water quality considerations on an entire farm or ranch. These plans include practices, management measures and schedules that the landowner or operator agrees to carry out.

How will a WQMP benefit a producers operation?

Under this new law producers complying with WQMPs certified by the TSSWCB are protected from having their operation designated as a point source of pollution. Point sources of pollution are subject to regulations enforced by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission. A WQMP ensures that an operation meets state laws regarding water quality protection.

What if a poultry producer fails to apply for a WQMP before the appropriate submission date?

Producers who fail to submit an application for a WQMP before the appropriate submission date for their facilities

are subject to enforcement actions by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission.

How does a producer get a WQMP?

A producer must contact the SWCD within which his or her operation is located. The process for obtaining a WQMP starts with the SWCD. The SWCD arranges for technical assistance for the producer to develop a suitable WQMP. After a WQMP is developed through the SWCD, it will be submitted to the TSSWCB to undergo the review and certification process.

How does a producer contact his or her SWCD?

SWCDs are located along either county or watershed boundaries and are most often co-located with a USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field office. If a producer is unable to locate their SWCD office, the producer may contact the nearest TSSWCB office for assistance (*see other side*). Additional contact information as well as a map of all Texas SWCDs can be found at the TSSWCB Website at www.tsswcb.state.tx.us.

What is the TSSWCB?

The TSSWCB is a state agency that administers Texas' soil and water conservation law and coordinates Texas' soil and water conservation programs with the State's SWCDs. The TSSWCB's mission is to promote the wise and productive use of our soil and water resources.

Additional information about the WQMP Program and the TSSWCB can be found at the TSSWCB Website –

<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us>