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**Ross Medford Farms, LLC**  
**Draft Permit to Operate**

***General overview of the farm***

Ross Medford Farms, LLC is located near New Weston, Ohio, Darke County, Wabash Township at 13803 Ross Medford Road, in the Upper Wabash River Watershed. The facility is owned by Winner Livestock Farms, LLC, Rindler Group, LLC and Schwieterman Egg Farm, LLC and it is operated by Ross Medford Farms, LLC. The draft Permit to Operate is a renewal application for the previously issued Permit to Operate, which was valid for a period of 5 years.

The facility has a design capacity of 1,817,000 laying hens, which are housed in seven separate layer houses. Six of the layer houses are equipped with belt battery cages and transfer manure to a central manure storage barn which is capable of storing approximately 524,700 cubic feet of solid manure. The seventh housing barn is a high rise barn, where manure is stored in a pit below the birds. The deep pit is capable of storing 198,000 cubic feet of solid manure. The facility also has an egg processing plant on site and the wash-water from the plant is stored in an aerated lagoon capable of storing approximately 2.0 million gallons of liquid manure.

***General overview of the draft Permit to Operate***

Within the draft Permit to Operate, a complete manure management plan is provided, which outlines inspections and monitoring that must be completed by the facility. All of the solid manure is sold and distributed to crop farmers that use the organic nutrients as a replacement for commercial fertilizer. Approximately 20,000 tons of solid manure are generated and distributed annually. The liquid manure generated from the egg processing plant is land applied to land under the control of the facility. Approximately 1.1 million gallons per year are irrigated on land at the facility that is continuous grass hay.

An Insect and Rodent Control Plan is required to minimize the presence and negative effects of insects and rodents. Specifics of Ross Medford Farm's insect and rodent control plan can be found in the draft PTO.

A Mortality Management Plan is required for the disposal of dead livestock. Approved methods of disposal are burying, landfilling, burning, rendering and composting. Ross Medford Farms utilizes mortality composting as their primary method of disposal.

An Emergency Response Plan is required to ensure that emergencies are handled quickly and efficiently to maintain the safety of the environment, wildlife and water supplies and resources.

Finally, an Operating Record is included that provides all forms and information that must be maintained by the facility to show compliance with ODA's rules and the permit. These records include inspection of the manure storage structures, groundwater sampling, manure characterization, land application, insect and rodent control, distribution and utilization of manure, and mortality management. The facility and its records are routinely inspected by the ODA to ensure compliance.

