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Progress Report

WASTE MANAGEMENT

During the past year, intense interest has arisen among livestock producers regarding what will be required of them in order to comply with proposed environmental legislation. As a result of interest aroused during the Waste Management Workshop conducted in Alleghany County last August, several dairymen from the western part of the state have requested and received assistance for rainfall runoff controls and land application systems. In conjunction with SCS personnel, a recent survey of selected dairymen across the state has been made regarding waste management alternatives, paying particular attention to the economics of complying with proposed environmental legislation. A stream sampling program has been initiated to assess the environmental impact of dairy feedlot runoff on receiving streams of high-rainfall, high-runoff regions, such as the mountains of western North Carolina.

Poultry producers are realizing the value of broiler litter, not only as fertilizer, but also as feed additives. Several producers are ensiling poultry litter and adding it to cattle rations as a cheap source of supplement during the grow-out period.

Continuing interest toward total confinement environmental houses for swine productions has necessitated the need for waste lagoons with overflow control by spray irrigation. Where persistent odors are a problem, surface aeration is required. More producers are recycling the effluent from the lagoons back into their swine housing waste collection pits for flushing. A stream sampling program is planned to assess the impact of rainfall runoff from swine drylot finishing units on receiving streams.

Continuous monitoring of the environmental impact, as well as the operation

of the waste management systems developed for Chick Sales egg hatchery near Siler City and Lexington Swine Breeders production facilities, has been performed during the last year. The impact has been minimal and the owners of these systems have enjoyed success with system operation.

Several mountain trout producers in conjunction with TVA have expressed an interest in substantially increasing mountain trout production in the western part of the state. Efforts are being made to determine the feasibility of this venture, including costs of effluent treatment from these fish production units as required by proposed environmental legislation.