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**Moving Poultry Litter: Water Quality Incentive Design - A Multi-Disciplinary Approach**

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Abstract:

As the top poultry producing state in the nation, Georgia is also the top poultry manure producing state in the nation. The industry is heavily concentrated in nutrient sensitive watersheds in the northern part of the state. To control nutrient loading, state and federal agencies have been interested in the use of incentives for poultry litter export from the region. This project was conducted to build a partnership to support and to advise policymakers on nutrient transfer in Georgia. A multi-disciplinary approach was used to develop a set of recommendations. The project combined a stakeholder involvement process, outreach activities, economic modeling, policy research, and a farmer survey to gather information from across a broad range of sources. The project outcomes include: recommendations for implementation, an information base to support implementation, and a committed group of stakeholders that can be called upon for assistance and support in the future. This project was implemented between July 2007 and September 2008. It was funded by the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the NRCS Conservation Partnership Initiative, and the CSREES Southern Region Water Quality program. This paper reviews the major findings of project, discusses the process used to conduct the project, and looks ahead to future activities on this topic in Georgia.

Impact Statement:

This project developed a committed group of stakeholders who can be called up on to provide input and support in future efforts on nutrient transfer in Georgia. It leveraged funds from state and federal sources to support a multi-disciplinary approach to promoting improved water quality. The lessons learned and recommendations from this project will support policymakers in developing a cost-effective approach to reducing nutrient inputs from poultry production in nutrient sensitive watersheds in north Georgia.

Category: Conservation and Resource Management

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