



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Poultry Litter Transfer Initiative**

*Jackson, Mississippi, November 9, 2006* - Potential environmental concerns relative to the management of poultry litter in the “MS Poultry Belt” are becoming a high priority. As a result, a new statewide initiative poultry litter transfer resource concern has been developed in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for implementation in FY 2007. This initiative has two primary objectives:

1. Create an incentive to distribute poultry litter to areas of the state that have historically not used poultry litter as a fertilizer.
2. Promotion of a long-term market for animal manure as a fertilizer around the state.

This initiative is intended to fund incentive payments for the hauling of poultry litter from areas in the state of high concentrations of poultry production to areas of the state with no poultry production. The intent is to encourage a market for poultry litter to be used as a source of fertilizer and organic matter on cropland and pastureland. It should be emphasized to applicants that this project is to cover the costs of hauling the poultry litter only, not the cost of purchasing or loading the poultry litter. Payments are based on the tons of poultry litter hauled and the mileage between the poultry litter source and the receiving farm. Payment will be made only for hauling litter for the purpose of land application at agronomic rates. Land application according to a phosphorus index and a nutrient budget is considered an agronomic rate for the purpose of this initiative. EQIP requires the participant to enter into a 3-year contract for the manure transfer incentives. The participant provides soil tests for all fields where the poultry litter will be applied. NRCS staff will assist with the development of a “nutrient management plan” for the fields involved. The person providing the poultry litter will be expected to provide an analysis of the poultry litter.

Persons who would like to participate in the EQIP “Manure Transfer Initiative” can visit their local USDA/NRCS field office to sign up to have poultry litter transferred to their farm. Applications will be accepted through December 29, 2006

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