

DOLLARS & CENTS

When it comes right down to it, cost is always a deciding factor on the farm. A well-planned buffer that is properly installed and maintained does come with a price tag. However, dollar for dollar, there is no other alternative which can deliver the return on investment that a buffer can provide. This is especially true when all installation and associated maintenance expenses are averaged over the life of the buffer.

In considering the costs associated with a buffer on your farm, you must also consider the possible costs of *not* having a VEB. The expense of a poultry disease outbreak, high energy consumption, or disgruntled neighbors is a reality. Ultimately, you must ask yourself whether you can afford not to have a buffer on your farm.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. has many resources available to help poultry growers across Delmarva install vegetative buffers.

DPI has hired a VEB Coordinator to facilitate the process of designing, funding, and maintaining vegetative buffers. Planning assistance and individual consultation are offered without charge as a service to all interested growers.

For more information, please contact DPI.

For more than 50 years, the Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. (DPI) has worked for the benefit of the broiler industry on the Delmarva Peninsula. As a non-profit trade association, DPI continues to serve all sectors of the local poultry industry through industry promotion, disease prevention and control programs, education, legislative representation, and innovative outreach activities such as the VEB program. If you are not already among the 3,000 members of DPI, please consider joining. Together we can make a difference!

*For additional information
please contact:*

Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.
16686 County Seat Highway
Georgetown, Delaware 19947
(302) 856-9037
www.dpichicken.org



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VEGETATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL BUFFERS

*Production Benefits
for Broiler Farms*



Installing a vegetative buffer may seem like an undertaking with only limited production value. However, there are many benefits to poultry growers which may help boost the bottom line or assist in production efficiency.

Can a vegetative buffer make a difference on your farm? Well, read on...

HOW CAN A VEB HELP MY FARM?

A properly installed and maintained Vegetative Environmental Buffer (VEB) is an important best management practice to address environmental concerns and neighbor relations. It also can provide real production benefits. While not all of these benefits translate easily into an extra dollar on the settlement sheet, they do deliver tangible returns on your investment.



BUFFERS & BIOSECURITY

The threat posed by poultry diseases is a serious challenge to the industry. Dense concentrations of poultry operations and proximity to major roadways further compound this threat. For the grower, this risk is quite personal. The introduction of a disease-causing pathogen can spell catastrophic financial loss for your farm.

On the other hand, a vegetative buffer offers a cost-effective strategy to help boost biosecurity on the farm and limit disease potential. Studies indicate that trees and shrubs act as a screen to deflect and capture wind-borne pathogens, thus limiting the possibility of transmission to the flock.

BUFFERS & ENERGY SAVINGS

Increasing energy costs are a concern for all poultry growers. Once established, a VEB can also help save energy and thereby save you money.

Trees and shrubs can be planted to block cold winter winds. Similarly, trees can provide summer shade to cool the roof and intake air. Direct savings from heating and cooling efficiency alone can be quite significant.

Another often overlooked benefit is the reduction of back pressure on poultry house fans. Wind that blows against the fans can substantially reduce fan efficiency and increase energy consumption. The windbreak effect created by a tree buffer alleviates back pressure and results in direct energy savings.

BUFFERS & THE COMMUNITY

Poultry farms are a vital part of the community and farm operators have basic responsibilities in community stewardship. Whether simply being considerate of your neighbors or working to preserve and

enhance property values, a well-planned VEB should be part of your community stewardship commitment.

Vegetative buffers reduce dust, minimize odors, dampen noise, and generally lessen neighbor complaints. In addition, the planting of trees and shrubs around the farm preserves property values in the surrounding community and boosts the value of the farm itself. While even the perfect buffer is not the solution to all community relations issues, it certainly does go a long way toward the goal of being a “good neighbor.”

BUFFERS & FARM PRIDE

Poultry farmers who take pride in their operation also tend to be better managers. Likewise, poultry farms that have a well-kempt appearance tend to inspire more pride. The simple step of installing a buffer can add a fresh appearance to the farm and give you an extra reason to take pride in your operation. To the community, it sends a message that you care about your farm’s public image.

