



John R. Kasich | Governor

Department of
Agriculture

David T. Daniels | Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ODA to Hold Open House and Public Meeting on Draft Permits for Wilker Eggs and Grain Farm

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (December 4, 2014) – The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) will hold an open house and public meeting on January 6, 2015, on the draft Permit to Operate (PTO) and draft Permit to Install (PTI) for Wilker Eggs and Grain Farm. The open house will be held from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. followed by the public meeting at the Saint Marys Township Building, 10752 State Route 364, Saint Marys, OH 45885.

The department will provide an opportunity for recording public comments concerning the draft permits. Oral comments can be made in person and on the record at the public meeting. Written comments must be received by ODA no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 13th. Comments must be delivered or mailed to ODA Division of Livestock Environmental Permitting (DLEP), 8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068. Comments received after January 13th will not be considered by the Director before making a determination on the permit.

The draft permits can be reviewed and/or copies made at the Division of Livestock Environmental Permitting (DLEP) office at: A.B. Graham Building, 8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068.

Wilker Eggs and Grain Farm is located in Auglaize County, St. Marys' Township, at 10675 Tri Township Road, St. Marys, Ohio. It is owned and operated by Ron and Deborah Wilker at the same address, and it is situated in the St. Marys River Watershed.

The facility consists of an existing layer house having a design capacity of 64,447 layers. Manure from the existing layer house is stored below the cages in a deep pit structure, with a pit providing well over one year's worth of storage.

The draft Permit to Install (PTI) proposes to construct a second layer house capable of housing an additional 252,720 layers, which would bring the overall design capacity of the facility to 317,167 layers. The new house would be constructed with belt-battery style cages, where manure will be transported out of the housing barn on a daily basis. Manure will then be stored in a separate manure storage barn that is planned with this draft PTI. The new manure storage barn proposed would be capable of storing approximately 157,000 cubic feet of manure, which will provide about 183 days of manure storage for the new layer barn. Plans are for all of the solid manure to be distributed off the farm to manure brokers and crop producers outside of the Grand Lake St Marys watershed that will utilize the manure as a replacement for commercial fertilizers.

The draft PTO includes plans to manage manure nutrients, prevent and control insect and rodent problems, handle emergency situations, and properly dispose of mortality losses. The PTO also includes an Operating Record that provides the forms and information that must be maintained by the facility to comply with ODA rules and the permit.

- 30 -



Serving Farmers and Protecting Consumers Since 1846

Media contact: Brett Gates, ODA Office of Communication, (614) 752-9817



Serving Farmers and Protecting Consumers Since 1846

