

**WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE
NATALIE E. TENNANT
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION**

Form #1

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OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSED RULE

AGENCY: West Virginia Department of Agriculture TITLE NUMBER: 61

RULE TYPE: Legislative CITE AUTHORITY: 19-9-2; 19-9-10

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES ☐ NO ☒

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: _____

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: _____

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: Poultry Litter **28**
Poultry Litter and Manure Movement Into Primary Breeder Rearing Areas

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING: August 20, 2012 TIME: 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION OF PUBLIC HEARING: The West Virginia Department of Agriculture
Moorefield Ag Complex
60B Moorefield Industrial Park
Moorefield, WV 26836

COMMENTS LIMITED TO: ORAL ☐ WRITTEN ☐ BOTH ☒

DATE WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD ENDS: August 22, 2012 TIME: 5:00 p.m.

WRITTEN COMMENTS MAY BE MAILED TO:

The Department requests that persons wishing to make
comments at the hearing make an effort to submit written
comments in order to facilitate the review of these comments.

West Virginia Department of Agriculture
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305

The issues to be heard shall be limited to the proposed rule.

ATTACH A **BRIEF** SUMMARY OF YOUR PROPOSAL


Authorized Signature

**TITLE 61
LEGISLATIVE RULE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**SERIES 28
POULTRY LITTER AND MANURE MOVEMENT
INTO PRIMARY POULTRY BREEDER
REARING AREAS**

61-28-1. General.

- 1.1. Scope. -- This legislative rule establishes standards for the transport of poultry litter and swine manure into areas where commercial primary poultry breeder operations are located.
- 1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code ' 19-9-2; 19-9-10.
- 1.3. Filing Date. --
- 1.4 -- Effective Date. --

61-28-2. Purpose.

The purpose of this article is to establish guidelines for the transport of poultry litter and swine manure into areas where commercial primary poultry breeder operations are located. The function of primary breeders is to maintain pure blood lines, expand pure blood lines and develop cross-bred lines. Primary breeders maintain and reproduce the first three generations of birds referred to as Pedigree, Great-grandparent and Grandparent stock. These birds are used to produce the fourth generation known as Parent or Multiplier stock, which produce the fifth generation birds grown by commercial growers for marketing. Primary breeder farms adhere to strict biosecurity programs to prevent introduction of pathogens from other poultry or animals. Diseases such as salmonella, mycoplasmas and avian influenza are major concerns. Breeding turkeys may also be easily infected with influenza viruses from swine which will result in immediate and dramatic cessation of egg production. Movement of personnel, equipment and birds are strictly controlled to reduce the risk of infection or disease. Other protocols to ensure disease prevention on primary breeder farms include strict separation of generations and geographically separated farms.

61-28-3. Definitions.

The following words as used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires or a different meaning is specifically prescribed, shall have the following meanings:

- (a) "Area" means any land within a three-mile radius of a poultry house engaged in the rearing of commercial primary breeder stock.

- (b) "Certificate" means a document issued by the commissioner of agriculture or the WVDA State Veterinarian, if designated by the commissioner, indicating a regulated material is free of specified pathogens.
 - (c) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of agriculture of the State of West Virginia or his/her designee.
 - (d) "Commercial primary poultry breeder" is an operation engaged in the maintenance and improvement of breeding genetics.
 - (e) "Compost" means the natural process in which beneficial microbes reduce organic waste into a biologically safe by-product which is capable of being recycled.
 - (f) "Move" means to ship, offer for shipment, receive for transportation, carry, or otherwise transport, move or to be moved.
 - (g) "Multiplier" (commonly referred to as the fourth generation) is the offspring of Grandparent stock used to produce birds for market.
 - (h) "Pathogen" is a microorganism, virus, bacterium, or fungus capable of causing disease in its host.
 - (i) "Permit" is a document issued by the commissioner of agriculture or the WVDA State Veterinarian, if designated by the commissioner, to provide for movement of regulated articles to restricted destinations.
 - (j) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, co-op, firm, company, or any organized group of persons whether incorporated or not.
 - (k) "Poultry" includes any birds raised commercially or domestically for meat, eggs, feathers or pets.
 - (l) "Poultry Litter" refers to any material used as poultry bedding which may include sawdust, wood shavings, rice hulls, peanut hulls, straw, newspaper, and sand.
 - (m) "Primary poultry breeder" is any person (as designated in definitions) engaged in the production of Pedigree, Great-grandparent, Grandparent and Parent stock of poultry (commonly referred to as the first four generations).
 - (n) "Sell" means offer for sale, exchange, barter or trade.
 - (o) "Swine manure" refers to excreta from the production of pigs which may include bedding material such as sawdust, wood shavings or straw.
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61-28-4. Powers and duties of the Commissioner.

The Commissioner has the authority to:

(A) Adopt, promulgate and enforce rules to carry out the purpose of this article.

Said rules shall establish guidelines for the movement of poultry litter into restricted areas.

(1) No person shall transport, move or sell poultry litter, which is a regulated material as defined in this legislative rule, into any area engaged in the production of commercial primary poultry breeder stock unless the poultry litter being transported has been properly composted for a period of 60 days.

(2) No person shall move or sell swine manure, into any area engaged in the production of commercial primary poultry breeder stock due to additional disease risks.

(B) Require testing and prescribe methods of testing for the presence of pathogens capable of causing harm to poultry or people.

(1) No person shall move or sell poultry litter into any area engaged in the production of commercial primary poultry breeder stock unless the poultry litter being transported has been certified by the State Veterinarian to have:

(a) originated from a flock that has been tested negative for Avian Influenza pre-movement.

(b) originated from a flock that is Mycoplasma free.

(c) been tested at an approved laboratory facility using approved methodology for the absence of salmonella.

(2) No person shall move or sell poultry litter into any area engaged in the production of commercial primary poultry breeder stock without having in his/her possession the certificate from the State Veterinarian stating poultry litter being transported has been tested within 30 days of movement.

61-28-5. Criminal penalties; civil penalties; negotiated agreement.

(A) **Criminal penalties.** -- Any person violating any provision of this article or rules adopted hereunder is guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than two thousand dollars nor more than five thousand dollars for the first offense; second and subsequent offenses shall be fined not less than five thousand nor more than ten thousand dollars, or imprisoned in the county jail not more than six months, or both fined and imprisoned. Magistrates have concurrent jurisdiction with circuit courts to enforce the provisions of this article.

(B) **Civil penalties.** –

(1) Any person violating a provision of this article or rules adopted hereunder may be assessed a civil penalty by the commissioner of agriculture. In determining the amount of any civil penalty, the commissioner shall give due consideration to the history of previous violations of any person, the seriousness of the violation, including any irreparable harm to the environment, any hazards to the health and safety of the public and any economic damages to the public or business entity.

(2) The commissioner may assess a civil penalty of up to one thousand dollars for any violation.

(3) The civil penalty is payable to the State of West Virginia and is collectible in any manner now or hereafter provided for collection of debt. If any person liable to pay the civil penalty neglects or refuses to pay the same, the amount of the civil penalty, together with interest at ten percent, is a lien in favor of the State of West Virginia upon the property, both real and personal, of such a person after the same has been entered and docketed to record in the county where such property is situated. The clerk of the county, upon receipt of the certified copy of such, shall enter same to record without requiring the payment of costs as a condition precedent to recording.

(C) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the commissioner may promulgate and adopt rules which permit consent agreements or negotiated settlements for the civil penalties assessed as a result of violation of the provisions of this article.

(D) Nothing in this article may be construed as requiring the commissioner or his representative to report for prosecution as a result of minor violations of the article when he believes that the public interest will be best served by a suitable

notice of warning in writing.

(E) Upon application by the commissioner, the circuit court of the county in which the violation is occurring, has occurred or is about to occur, as the case may be, may grant a temporary or permanent injunction restraining any person from violating or continuing to violate any of the provisions of this article or any rule promulgated under this article, notwithstanding the existence of other remedies at law. Any such injunction shall be issued without bond.

(F) No state court may allow for the recovery of damages for any administrative action taken, if the court finds that there was a probable cause for the action.

(G) It is the duty of the prosecuting attorney of the county in which the violation occurred to represent the department of agriculture, to institute proceedings and to prosecute the person charged with such violation.

61-28-6. Right to appeal.

Any order of the Commissioner of agriculture or his/her designee shall be served upon all persons affected thereby by registered mail. Within ten days of the receipt of such order any party adversely affected thereby may, in writing, request a hearing before the Commissioner. Such hearing and any judicial review thereof shall be conducted in accordance with the applicable provisions of article five (§29A-5-1 et. seq.) and six (§29A-6-1 et seq.), chapter twenty-nine-A of this Code as if the same were set forth herein in extensor.