



## WHAT IS THE TSSWCB?

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) is a state agency that administers Texas' soil and water conservation law and coordinates conservation and pollution abatement programs throughout the state. Headquartered in Temple, Texas, the TSSWCB offers technical assistance to the state's 216 soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs). The TSSWCB is governed by a seven-member board composed of two Governor appointees and five landowners elected throughout Texas by more than 1,000 SWCD Directors. The TSSWCB is the lead Texas agency for planning, implementing, and managing programs and practices for abating agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. The TSSWCB also administers Technical Assistance and Cost-Share Assistance Programs for natural resource conservation land improvement measures. The TSSWCB fulfills its responsibilities as the lead agency through its Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), NPS Coastal Management Plan, and Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) Programs, as well as the Clean Water Act, §319(h) Grant Program funded by the Environmental Protection Agency. The TSSWCB also administers a NPS complaint resolution process, a Poultry WQMP Program, the Water Supply Enhancement Program, and Flood Control Programs. The TSSWCB maintains regional and program offices in strategic locations in the state to help carry out the agency's water quality responsibilities.

**Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board**  
1497 Country View Lane  
Temple, Texas 76504  
(254) 773-2250  
[www.tsswcb.texas.gov](http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov)



## POULTRY OFFICE LOCATIONS

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### POULTRY PROGRAM OFFICE

2200 NW Stallings Dr., Suite 102  
Nacogdoches, TX 75964  
(936) 462-7020

### BUFFALO POULTRY OFFICE

P.O. Box 362  
Buffalo, TX 75831  
(936) 245-9027

### GONZALES POULTRY OFFICE

920 St. Joseph St., Rm. 132  
Gonzales, TX 78629  
(830) 672-6541

### DUBLIN REGIONAL OFFICE

611 East Blackjack  
Dublin, TX 76446  
(254) 445-4814

### MOUNT PLEASANT REGIONAL OFFICE

1809 West Ferguson, Suite B  
Mount Pleasant, TX 75455  
(903) 572-4471

### WHARTON REGIONAL OFFICE

1120 Hodges Lane  
Wharton, TX 77488  
(979) 532-9496

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## TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD



## POULTRY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM

**POULTRY  
LITTER / MANURE  
STORAGE**

# POULTRY LITTER STORAGE



NRCS designed Waste Storage Facility (Litter Barn)

Most poultry farms will periodically have a need to temporarily store litter or “cake” litter. Typically a litter barn is designed to store at least 2 flocks of “cake” litter for when spreader service is not available or land application fields are too wet for spreader equipment.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR LITTER STORAGE

If litter is stored on-farm, it must be protected from contact with rainfall and rain runoff. Use of a litter barn is the preferred method. However, if not kept under a roofed structure, litter must be completely covered with a tarp or similar impermeable material or bermed so that any rain runoff that contacts the litter will not leave the property or enter water of the state. Storage of unroofed litter is limited to 30 days. Storage areas must be at least 150 feet away from private water wells, and at least 100 feet from drainages, creeks, streams, ponds, lakes, wetlands, or other waterways (even if they're dry). Keep litter storage areas as far away from neighbors as possible.

## LITTER STORAGE BARN OPTIONS

The preferred storage structure is a Waste Storage Facility that meets the practice standard design specifications of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). However, other structures are acceptable for meeting storage requirements. Abandoned poultry houses, pole barns, or other structures that protect from rainfall and rain runoff are usually acceptable. What's most important is the litter is kept dry and does not make contact with rainfall or other water sources and no polluted runoff discharges from the litter.

## COST-SHARE PROGRAMS

Programs may be available to eligible poultry producers to assist with paying for a newly constructed litter storage facility. However, the facility must meet the specifications set by the agency providing the financial assistance. Check with the TSSWCB or NRCS office nearest you for the requirements and to see if financial assistance is available.

## PROBLEMS THAT MAY RESULT IN VIOLATIONS

- ◆ Runoff from litter pile entering water of the state or entering a neighbor's property
- ◆ Litter piled too close to a waterway or in a flood zone
- ◆ Excessive litter spilled on drive areas or “turn-out” pads
- ◆ Soil staining by repeated storage of litter in same location
- ◆ Outdoor, uncovered litter not protected from rain runoff
- ◆ Litter piled too close to neighbor's home

## TIPS FOR REDUCING PROBLEMS

- ◆ Keep stored litter under a dry roofed structure
- ◆ Load litter directly from houses onto spreader or truck without staging litter on drives, turn-out pads, or other areas
- ◆ Rotate locations of outdoor storage areas to reduce possibility of soil staining
- ◆ Lightly disc areas where litter has been stored outdoors to incorporate any residual litter
- ◆ Consider in-house “pasteurizing” or “composting” of litter between flocks. This process may reduce bacteria that may be harmful to the birds and cause odors. It also may reduce the frequency of litter clean-outs
- ◆ To help prevent spontaneous combustion, keep the litter dry and do not allow piles to exceed 5 feet in height. If you see the pile smoking, the entire pile should be removed from the structure to prevent fires
- ◆ Contact TSSWCB or NRCS for technical assistance if you elect to construct a berm for litter pile runoff protection
- ◆ Follow guidance in your Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP)



[www.tsswcb.texas.gov/poultry](http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/poultry)