



## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission  
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### **State agency targets voluntary improvements to agricultural water quality for North and Southeast Georgia** *Goal is to reduce water pollutants in the Settingdown Creek Watershed and Altamaha River Basin*

**ATHENS, Ga.** – The Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission has begun a voluntary Multi-Phased Nutrient Planning Management Initiative for poultry and livestock operations in northern and southeastern Georgia. Farmers participating in this project will receive a free on-farm assessment, soil testing, an updated Nutrient Management Plan and an incentive payment for participation in the program. GSWCC will assist in identifying potential funding sources to complete improvements based on the farm assessment. There is no cost to farmers for this service.

Nutrient Management Plans are recommended for all animal feeding operations, including poultry farms. An assessment and updated NMP saves costs while improving soil health and water quality by avoiding the over application of fertilizers to fields, preventing runoff of nutrients into creeks and streams, and improving the disposal of dead animals.

The Settingdown Creek Watershed lies primarily within the boundaries of the Upper Chattahoochee River Soil and Water Conservation District (Forsyth and Dawson counties) but also runs through a portion of the Limestone Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (Cherokee and Pickens counties).

The Altamaha River Basin travels through the Altamaha Soil and Water Conservation District (Appling and Jeff Davis counties), Coastal Soil and Water Conservation District (Long and McIntosh counties), Ogeechee River Soil and Water Conservation District (Tattall County), Ohoopsee River Soil and Water Conservation District (Montgomery and Toombs counties), and Satilla River Soil and Water Conservation District (Glynn and Wayne counties),

Farmers wishing to take advantage of this free service to update their plans should contact GSWCC Region offices to set up a time to complete an on-farm assessment. Agricultural producers in Cherokee, Dawson, Forsyth, and Pickens counties may contact Jessica Bee in the GSWCC Region I office in Calhoun by calling 706-624-1434 or emailing [jbee@gaswcc.org](mailto:jbee@gaswcc.org). Producers in Appling, Glynn, Jeff Davis, Long, McIntosh, Montgomery, Tattall, Toombs, and Wayne counties may contact the GSWCC Region III office in Statesboro by calling 912-681-5241 or emailing [region3@gaswcc.org](mailto:region3@gaswcc.org).

The GSWCC has produced a free manual, *Best Management Practices for Georgia Agriculture*, listing agricultural water quality improvements, which is available online at <http://gaswcc.georgia.gov/best-management-practices-georgia-agriculture>. The GSWCC is a non-regulatory state agency that supports Georgia’s 40 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in assisting landowners in protecting and developing their soil and water resources. Additional information is available at <http://gaswcc.georgia.gov> or by calling 706-552-4470. # # #

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