

# Environmental Stewardship in Virginia's Poultry Industry



Hobey Bauhan
President
Virginia Poultry Federation

# Preserving Farmland

- Nearly 1,100 family farms in 34 counties
- 250 million broiler chickens (9<sup>th</sup> in U.S.)
  - >780 chicken farms
- 17 million turkeys (5<sup>th</sup> in U.S.)
  - >280 turkey farms
- 729 million table eggs (27<sup>th</sup> in U.S.)





## Major Economic Impact

- Poultry contributed \$984,700,000 to Virginia economy in 2010
  - Broiler chickens
    - \$622.8 million
  - Turkeys
    - \$284.6 million
  - Eggs
    - \$77.3 million

# **Creating Jobs**

- 10,000 employed by
  - Cargill
  - George's foods
  - Perdue farms
  - Pilgrim's pride
  - Tyson foods
  - Virginia Poultry Growers Cooperative
- 72,000 jobs created outside industry



# Shenandoah Valley Region

- >280 turkey farms
- >550 chicken farms
- >6,000 poultry company employees
  - 3 chicken processing plants
  - 2 turkey processing plants
  - 2 further processing plants
  - 1 spent hen processing plant
- 5 poultry feed mills
- 6 hatcheries





#### **Being Proactive**

- 1990s Friend of the Bay Award NMPs
- Research funding
- Feed management
- Poultry litter marketing
  - Hotline
  - Manure spreaders
  - Transport subsidy
- Litter to energy

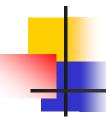
#### Collaboration

- Waste Solutions Forum
  - Diverse stakeholders convene in 2004
  - Steering committee
  - Marketing manure products
  - Feed management
  - Manure to energy
- Shenandoah Valley Pure Water Forum
  - Roundtable
  - Education
  - Conservation projects



# The Place for Regulation

- VA goes beyond Clean Water Act
- VA Poultry Waste Management Act
  - General Permit
    - NMP
    - Storage
    - Record keeping
    - Litter transfers
- VPDES Permit for CAFOs



### Restoring the Chesapeake

- States and agriculture playing a positive role
- Poultry litter nutrient management
- Poultry plant upgrades
- VA WIP Resource Management Plans

# Conclusions

- Let States lead the way
- Rely on sound scientific research and innovation
- Go with a voluntary approach whenever possible
- Cost-share is critical
- Collaboration is good

