

Introduction

Odors and gases are emitted from the buildings that house livestock and poultry by (1) ventilation fans or (2) buoyancy or wind forces in naturally ventilated barns. Methods to reduce these odors and gas emissions are less well documented than either manure storage facilities or land application control methods. Of the three sources (buildings, storages, and land application), buildings are believed to release a relatively constant amount of the total odor and gas emissions generated. Building emissions, combined with releases from the manure storage facility, form the “baseline” emission levels from an animal production operation. The two approaches to minimizing odors from buildings are (1) minimize the odor generated and (2) treat the odor as it exits the building. This lesson will discuss both approaches. To better understand the odor risks associated with your own confinement livestock or poultry housing, an Animal Housing self-assessment tool (see Appendix A) is provided to assist you in a review. A similar tool is provided at the end of Lesson 42, Controlling Dust and Odor from Open Lot Livestock Facilities, which addresses odor and dust issues associated with open lot production systems.

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