

**MERCER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL  
DEVELOPMENT BOARD REVIEW OF  
DIPAOLA TURKEY'S INC. 2004 SITE SPECIFIC  
AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICE**

**DIPAOLA TURKEY'S INC. SSAMP**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Right to Farm Act, N.J.S.A. 4:1C-1et seq. and State Agricultural Development Committee (hereinafter "SADC") regulations N.J.A.C. 2:76-2.3, DiPaola Turkey's, Inc. located at \_\_\_\_\_ (Block 1629, Lot 131 on the Township of Hamilton tax maps) requested and was granted a site specific agricultural management practice (SSAMP) in December 2004 by the Mercer County Agricultural Development Board (MCADB) because the MCADB found DiPaola Turkey's, Inc. met the eligibility requirements for an SSAMP and operated the turkey farm following generally accepted agricultural management practices; and,

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2010, a neighbor living adjacent to DiPaola Turkeys, Inc. filed a right-to-farm complaint with the MCADB and alleged that the farm practices resulted in odors and flies that he believed adversely impacted the health and welfare of his family; and,

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2010, the neighbor withdrew his complaint given that the odors and flies were decreasing because the number of turkeys were rapidly decreasing due to processing for the approaching Thanksgiving holiday, but, he reserved the right to resubmit it in 2011 should the problem reoccur; and,

WHEREAS, at the MCADB meeting of December 6, 2010, members felt that because six years had passed since the SSAMP was granted to DiPaola Turkey's, Inc., a follow-up investigation into the farm practices should be made during the summer of 2011; and,

WHEREAS, Board Administrator Daniel Pace and non-voting Rutgers Extension Services MCADB member Meredith Melendez made an initial visit to the farm on June 15, 2011 shortly before the poults arrived and then made a second visit with the accompaniment of MCADB Chairman Steve Jany and Rutgers Cooperative Extension Agent Robert Mickel about one month after the poults arrived; and,

WHEREAS, on both visits, Mr. DiPaola was found to be following the same practices on his turkey farm as at the time the SSAMP was initially granted, plus, Mr. DiPaola was using new and additional best practices; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Mickel submitted a SSAMP review letter to the MCADB dated August 22, 2011 then revised on November 2, 2011; and,

WHEREAS, the Board finds that DiPaola Turkey's Inc. continues to meet the statutory requirements for having an SSAMP; and,

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the following conclusions reached by Board members at their regular meeting of December 6, 2004 and memorialized by resolution continue to be valid:

1. Mr. DiPaola is following accepted best practices for turkey husbandry;
2. The four rearing barns are properly designed and managed for the proper comfort and production of the turkeys;
3. Nutrient waste management through the use of "bedding pack" within the barns is an acceptable best practice for turkey raising;

4. The bedding pack is removed in the winter by a composting company, after it has had time to dry thoroughly and odors caused by removal become less offensive due to winter temperatures;
5. The automatically activated feed and watering system utilized on the farm is an effective means of controlling potential pest and manure-related odor problems;
6. The cleanliness of the growing facility and of the animals themselves (observed during the last two visits) exemplifies a high degree of concern for the operation;
7. The farm does not pose a threat to public health or safety; and,
8. The farm appears to be in compliance with all applicable State and Federal requirements.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby determines that the current operating procedures utilized by DiPaola Turkeys Inc., a commercial farm raising turkeys, continues to follow generally accepted agriculture management practices and that the SSAMP approved by MCADB resolution dated December 4, 2004 be sustained.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board supports the suggested recommendations made by Mr. Mickel in his November 2, 2011 review letter (attached) and conditions this resolution on:

1. Mr. DiPaola implementing those recommendations; and
2. Mr. DiPaola permitting MCADB representatives access to the farm during normal business hours and while turkeys are being raised in order to monitor compliance with Mr. Mickel's recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that within 30 days, the Board shall forward a copy of this Resolution and supporting documents to Mr. DiPaola, the SADC, the Township of Hamilton and any other individuals or organizations deemed appropriate by the Board.

I certify that the above Resolution was unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Mercer County Agricultural Development Board on February 6, 2012.



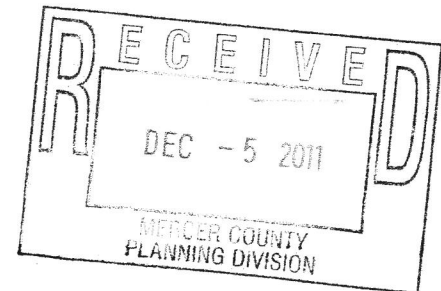
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Daniel Pace, Secretary

November 2, 2011

To: Mr. Art Dipaola  
Diapola Turkey Farm  
Trenton, New Jersey 08690

Mr. Daniel Pace, Administrator  
Mercer County Agricultural Development Board  
PO Box 8068  
Trenton, New Jersey 08560



RE: Update to Best Management Practices dated August 22, 2011 and October 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

At the request of the Mercer County Agricultural Development Board and the parties concerned with the fly problems at the Dipaola Turkey Farm, I would recommend that the farm implement a more aggressive response to fly population increments that seem to parallel the production stages of the turkeys when they arrive in early July and continue through the warmer days of August and into the fall.

#### General Statements

As noted in prior documents and site visits the Dipaola Turkey Farm does an excellent job in managing the farm premises by keeping the grounds mowed, avoiding collecting water around the housing by the maintenance of grass waterways and diversions, proper sanitation with the removal of debris around the turkey houses and an affective dead bird removal practice of bagging and disposing via site pickups. Additionally, the farm has made efforts to control fly populations using increased bedding applications, fly tapes and bait stations.

Pest management strategies for Dipaola's Turkey Farm present some unique management considerations since the turkeys' are kept on a bedding pack for the entire duration of their productive life on the farm and as such limit some of the residual chemical spray options and some mechanical manure/bedding strategies. Some of the chemical applications also require moving the birds out of the housing, which is not feasible for the farm, while chemical fogging in the open screened housing is not practical from a control basis.

Resistance to insecticides by the resident fly population necessitates the use of different classes/families of insecticides to control the flies and to minimize the development of resistant fly populations. Rotating the use of available chemicals, i.e., organophosphates, carbamates, pyrethroids and other chemical controls will generally help control fly populations.

Overall fly control will need a more aggressive vertically integrated approach using multiple measures that will assist in keeping flies under control, but may not totally remove all the flies and will need adjustments on a regular basis.

### Recommendations

First, I would recommend that a few days prior to the arrival of the turkey polts in July and/or based on chemical manufacturers label recommendations that the entire housing area be sprayed with a residual spray covering wherever flies might locate, i.e. framing, ceiling, posts, walls, floor, trusses, light bulbs and/or areas where fly specks are noticed. This may or may not be done by the farm at this time and as such needs to be considered or adjusted with particular concern of the farms marketing program.

Spraying all the housing as they become active with the turkey populations on a yearly basis would be recommended using residual sprays such as Vapona (dichlorvos), Malathion, Atroban (permethrin), Rabon (tetrachlorvinphos) and Ravap (tetrachlorvinphos & dichlorvos). These chemicals do not require birds to be removed from housing although, as I noted before I would thoroughly spray all housing prior to the birds occupation and utilize the residual aspects of the chemical treatments in controlling the flies over the production cycle. For details on specifications please refer to Ohio State Bulletin 853 that can be accessed electronically at [http://ohioline.osu.edu/b853/b853\\_5.html](http://ohioline.osu.edu/b853/b853_5.html).

Second, the farm currently is using a bait system, but I would recommend that as part of a more intensive fly control program the farm increase the number of bait stations and implement an aggressive material rotation of recommended bait products, i.e. Apache, Fatal Attraction and Improved Golden Malrin and any other products that the farm is currently using. In addition the farm should monitor the bait stations on a scheduled regular basis utilizing manufacturer recommendations.

Since the turkeys are on a continual bedding pack it is not recommended to apply any materials directly to the pack or use feed additives due to the potential contamination of the turkey and the resulting meat products. Fly predator control implementations will probably not work either as the turkeys are continually on a bedding pack which would limit the predator access to the bedding media and subsequent control activity.

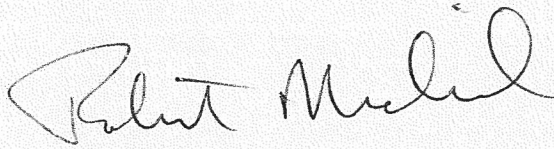
Third, the farm should increase the application of wood shavings on the bedding pack to reduce the potential moist egg laying media for the flies. Although this is a subjective observation I would encourage the farm to do this more regularly than currently being done, as the birds increase in weight up and until harvest on a regular monitored as needed basis.

Fourth, the farm should increase the use of sticky fly tapes throughout the entire turkey housing which can be done as long as the tapes are out of the reach of the turkeys. I would also recommend that the farm implement a sticky fly tape count, which entails walking through the housing to cover about 1,000 feet of housing area using a sticky tape on a pole to get a fly count. This should be done weekly utilizing the same walking pattern, same time of day and the same sticky tape type. Collecting over 100 flies per 1,000 feet of walking would indicate that more controls need to be implemented. It would be good to collect a sample of the flies attached to the tape(s) as well and have them identified to identify the specific species to insure that the correct treatments are being implemented. The county mosquito commission or the extension office could identify the species if needed. Also the farm might want to use a baited jug trap to sample the fly population and the species. Using a plastic milk jug with four access holes cut in the four respective sides (2 inch in diameter each), hung out of the turkey's reach could also determine the fly species. Although more expensive than the fly tape method the farm could use one ounce of Muscamone (a pheromone) in the bottom of the jug and hang for one to two days to collect the fly specimens for identification.

Fifth, as an additional fly monitoring method I would implement a fly speck card (3 x 5 inch white index cards) methodology by placing the five to six cards in each house close to feed areas, watering areas and general housing areas (out of the reach of the turkey's). Attach the cards to poles or other permanent structures and leave them for a week at a time. Remove the cards and count the total black fly specks on all the cards and divide by the card number to get average of specks. Fifty or more specks on average may indicate increased fly control measures. Replace new cards at the same place as the previous cards to monitor fly treatments and resulting control treatments.

Other recommendations would be to dig a stone bed under the watering systems located around the outside of the turkey houses. A bed of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch stone a foot deep and a foot wide and a foot beyond each end of the water troughs on the housing, would provide adequate drainage of spilled water and would assist in removing any wet soil/media as a potential fly breeding area. Additionally, the farm might consider looking into an outside pest control company that would not only offer treatment strategies, but would also assist in monitoring the fly problem as well. Furthermore, I would recommend that the farm keep a log of activities/treatments to assist in monitoring the entire activity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Mickel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Mickel".

Robert Mickel, Hunterdon County Agricultural & Regional Livestock Agent  
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cc. Meredith Melendez