



For Immediate Release
U.S. Poultry & Egg Association

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**Cooley Farms Recognized for Environmental Excellence by
USPOULTRY**

ATLANTA – Cooley Farms, Roberta, GA, was one of six farms across the United States to receive the Family Farm Environmental Excellence Award during the 2012 International Poultry Expo in Atlanta. U.S. Poultry & Egg Association, based in Tucker, GA, sponsors the annual awards in recognition of exemplary environmental stewardship by family farmers engaged in poultry and egg production.

Applicants were rated in several categories, including dry litter or liquid manure management, nutrient management planning, community involvement, wildlife enhancement techniques, innovative nutrient management techniques, and participation in education or outreach programs. Applications were reviewed and farm visits conducted by a team of environmental professionals from universities, regulatory agencies, and state trade associations in selecting national winners in six regions.

Cooley Farms is owned and operated by Larry Cooley. The farm is comprised of 690 acres in which chickens and cattle are raised and hay is grown. The farm has eighteen poultry houses with a total capacity of 450,000 birds.

Cooley Farms utilizes a nutrient management plan for applying litter to their land, along with a composter and incinerator for chicken mortality. Cooley Farms has implemented a program with EQUIP in an effort to decrease litter applications and increase commercial fertilizer on its farm. The farm also utilizes a windrower between flocks, as well as upgraded all of its poultry houses to Tier III level housing, the highest level of chicken house specifications. To help enhance wildlife, Cooley Farms constructed a 2,500 foot border fence to keep cattle out of a creek that borders the farm. The farm plants a wildlife mix along with a winter grass in certain pastures to help sustain and attract wildlife during the winter months.

Cooley Farms operates broiler houses for Perdue.

Mark Waller, 2012 chairman of the board of U.S. Poultry & Egg Association, and sales and processing director for Ingram Farms, Cullman, AL, presented the award to Cooley Farms.

U.S. Poultry & Egg Association is an all-feather organization representing the complete spectrum of today's poultry industry, with a focus on progressively serving member companies through research, education, communication, and technical assistance. Founded in 1947, U.S. Poultry & Egg Association is based in Tucker, GA.

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Photo Caption:

Cooley Farms Recognized for Environmental Excellence

Larry Cooley received the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association Family Farm Environmental Excellence Award at the 2012 International Poultry Expo. He was presented with the award and \$1,000 check by Mark Waller (left), USPOULTRY chairman.