



## **PRESERVING WATER QUALITY ASSOCIATED WITH LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTION**

### **Rationale:**

Livestock and poultry production has evolved to fewer and larger production units for several reasons, including the benefits of scale in efficient use of resources. As livestock and poultry production units have increased in size, there have been concerns about their impact on natural resources including water quality.

- Animal production systems have adopted many technologies designed to protect water quality, guided by a complex set of federal and state regulations. A few examples of those technologies include:
  - Containment of process-generated waste water and storm water runoff
  - Rigorous construction standards for manure storage containers made of earth, concrete or other materials
  - Application of manure to cropland at rates corresponding to the uptake of nutrients by the crops
  - Incorporation of manure into soil when applied to cropland
- Application of these technologies requires a high level of expertise and management.
- Animal producers, their families, their employees and their animals have the same needs for high-quality water as other people.
- Recycling of nutrients in animal manure to cropland is the oldest recycling program, and throughout history has contributed to food security.
- The world must double food production in the next 4 decades with little new land available for cultivation, less water available for irrigation, and perhaps limited supplies of fertilizers. Thus we must maximize food production from the earth's limited resources.

### **Policy Statement:**

***FASS supports preservation of water quality along with efficient use of resources in animal production.***

### **Policy Objectives:**

- FASS supports scientifically based protection of both ground water and surface water.
- FASS supports policy that acknowledges the value of efficient animal production in promoting food security.
- FASS supports focus on protection of the environment and on efficient use of resources.
- FASS encourages funding for research and education to meet objectives that focus on improving nutrient management and water quality.

*Adopted by the FASS Board of Directors on May 5, 2011*

For more information, please contact [FASSPolicyStatements@assoqh.org](mailto:FASSPolicyStatements@assoqh.org)