

DE AWRA Meeting
Thursday, October 1, 2009, 2:30 p.m.
Schiff Partnership Farm
Kent County, Delaware

Full farm description:

The fall meeting of the DE AWRA chapter will be Thursday, October 1, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. at the Schiff Partnership farm in Kent County. The Schiff's currently run the largest indoor feedlot in Delaware, with approximately 2000 head of cattle under roof in a 700' x 100' barn. When the Schiff's began this project, they desired to create not only a large feedlot but an environmentally friendly one. To this end, they installed the barn over a slatted-floor manure reception pit, with a flush-type manure transfer system.

Approximately six times per day, the manure is flushed to a manure processing area, where the solids are separated, dewatered, and stored for later use. The liquids are sent to a series of four large concrete tanks, with a combined total storage of over 5 million gallons. In these tanks, the liquids are further clarified, and then either spray-irrigated or re-used for flush water. The solids are transferred to an aerated, static-pile compost building where the solids are turned into compost material and then stored in a stacking shed for later use.

The Schiff's received financial and technical assistance from the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Kent Conservation District. The Schiff's also participate in the Cover Crop Program, The Conservation Security Program (CSP), and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). Please join us for this informative tour of one of the largest agricultural operations in Kent County to see how water and manure are recycled and reused.

Directions:

- Take 13S to Felton, DE.
- At the traffic light, turn right (West) on Rt. 12
- Take route 12 approx. 10 miles and at stop sign/blinker light, turn left onto Whiteleysburg Rd.
- In approx. 1 mile, feedlot will be on your left.
- There is an exact number since there is no residence, but for Google maps/MapQuest 1225 Whiteleysburg Rd. Harrington DE., will get you close.

*The 2009 Delaware Water Quest Scavenger Hunt clues will be distributed at this meeting. If none of your team members is able to attend this meeting, the Water Quest clues will also be available at the University of Delaware's Coast Day (Sunday, October 4th, 2009) in Lewes at the UD's Water Resources Agency table. If a team member is unable to attend either of these two events, teams can access the clues on the DE AWRA website. The clues will be posted by midnight on Monday, October 5th (www.deawra.org/scavhunt).