Pine Valley Ranch LLC
Draft Permit to Install & Draft Permit to Operate

General overview of the farm
The existing poultry (layer) facility known as “Pine Valley Ranch LLC” is at located at 21638 State Route 116, Spencerville, Ohio 45887. The site is located in Van Wert County, Jennings Township. It is situated in both the Auglaize and St. Mary’s River watersheds. The facility is owned and operated by Pine Valley Ranch, LLC. It is permitted for six layer barns with a total design capacity of 2,264,000 laying hens. Construction is ongoing, but currently only four of the layer barns have been completed, with a total approved stocking capacity of 1,502,000 laying hens.

The layer barns each have an attached manure storage barn capable of storing about 214,000 cubic feet of solid poultry manure, or about 350 days’ worth of storage each. The facility also includes two existing egg wash storage ponds with a combined capacity of 8.6 million gallons, that provide over a year’s worth of storage.

General Overview of the draft Permit to Install
Pine Valley Ranch LLC has proposed to construct four additional layer barns, each of which would house 380,500 laying hens, for a total increase of 1,522,000 birds. The proposed expansion would increase the facility design capacity to a total of 3,784,000 laying hens.

The proposed layer barns would each have attached manure storage barns with the capacity to store 214,000 cubic feet of solid poultry manure and provide an estimated 349 days of storage capacity for each layer barn. There are no proposed changes to the two existing egg wash storage ponds, which would provide an estimated 277 days’ worth of combined storage after the proposed increase in bird numbers.

General overview of the draft Permit to Operate
Within the draft Permit to Operate (PTO), a complete manure management plan is provided which outlines inspections and monitoring that must be completed by the facility. After the proposed increase in the maximum animal design capacity, Pine Valley Ranch LLC would generate an estimated 11.31 million gallons of liquid egg wash, 31,178 tons of solid poultry manure, and 80 tons of composted mortality material annually. The liquid egg wash and composted mortality material would be land applied under the control of the facility to 229 acres of nearby fields growing corn and soybeans. All of the solid poultry manure would be distributed to and utilized by cooperating crop farmers to recycle the nutrients as an organic alternative to imported commercial synthetic fertilizers.

An Insect and Rodent Control Plan is included to minimize the presence and negative effects of insects and rodents. The plan details which types of pests could potentially cause problems and how the facility will prevent those problems from occurring. The plan explains what preventative measures and treatments are available and how and when they might be employed. Details regarding the Insect and Rodent Control Plan can be found in the draft PTO.
A Mortality Management Plan is required for proper disposal of dead livestock. Approved methods of disposal are burying, landfilling, burning, rendering and composting. Pine Valley Ranch LLC plans to continue utilizing on-site composting as the primary method to manage mortality losses.

An Emergency Response Plan is required to ensure accidents or emergencies are handled quickly and efficiently to maintain the safety of the environment, wildlife and water supplies and resources. The plan also identifies procedures to be followed during an emergency, such as a spill or discharge, as well as contact information for those who need to be notified in the event of an emergency.

Finally, an Operating Record is included that provides all forms and information that must be maintained by the facility to show compliance with ODA’s rules and the permit. These records include inspection of the manure storage structures, manure characterization, insect and rodent control, distribution and utilization of manure, and mortality management. The facility and these records are inspected by the Ohio Department of Agriculture to ensure compliance. –End-