

I double checked the footprint size with Dr. Beyer to account for an access road on one end of a poultry system and grain bins.

Footprint of an 8 barn system: 19.63 acres

Additional 300 feet of buffer on each side and the footprint is now : 53.37 acres

So, this requires 172% more land.

Here is an article I ran across this summer that I found interesting from University Georgia extension that talks about separation distances, buffers, etc. They make the point that smaller producers are hurt the most by setback distances due to land requirements.

<http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=C931>

"For example, a 200' set-back from property lines requires a minimum of 14 acres to site four poultry houses, if the land is perfectly rectangular. Increasing the set-back to 400' increases the requirement to a minimum of 30 acres, while 1000' requires at least 130 acres. Since many plots of land are irregular in shape, property boundaries and topography often necessitate more acreage. In reality, a 200' set-back requires at least 30 to 40 acres to meet site needs for an average four-house operation. A 1000' set-back could realistically require several hundred acres to site four poultry houses for many tracts of land. According to the 2002 Census of Agriculture, 74 percent of Georgia farms have less than 180 acres.<sup>(3)</sup> Thus, a 1000' set-back requirement eliminates large numbers of family-owned farms from the poultry production industry.

One of the historically important aspects of poultry production has been the opportunity for small farmers to participate in a viable agricultural enterprise. In a time when agricultural land is shrinking and the acreage requirements for many agricultural commodities is increasing, it is important to protect family farms. Since no scientific basis exists to support excessive set-back requirements for poultry houses, and since Georgia poultry farmers have shown for more than 60 years that they can coexist with neighbors while making significant economic contributions to the community, it is incumbent on community officials to protect this business opportunity."

~Josh

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