

Pre-Hydroville Project Questions – page 2

Student ID No. 36 - 01 - _____ (*fill in your 2-digit number*)

Widespread Chicken Contamination

What appears to be a mass poisoning has affected poultry farms across the states of Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina with an estimated loss of over 100,000 chickens. According to a grower who requested anonymity, the chickens acted very strangely for the last several days and “wouldn’t go near their feed.” Fred Pucker, CEO of Pucker Poultry Inc., which hires out the farms where the poisoning occurred, refused to be interviewed. The Alabama and North Carolina State Departments of Public Health are investigating the outbreak to determine the risk this poisoning may pose to human health. Poultry is a major industry in the South.

Two-Headed Chickens in Alabama!

Last week’s mass chicken poisoning of over 100,000 chickens has also affected their offspring. Over 20,000 newly born chicks have mutations that include two heads, five legs, and one individual with three wings. When Pucker Poultry, Inc. discovered these reproductive abnormalities, the company immediately killed all of the chickens on their farms in the states of Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina. Pucker employees are concerned that the same thing will happen to their children. Pucker Poultry, Inc. bought its chicken feed believed to be contaminated with the carcinogen dioxin from the Pucker exclusive contractor, Feed the World, Inc. located in Mobile, Alabama. Pucker Poultry, Inc. is the largest poultry producer in the US, with over \$7 billion in sales in 2000. They ship their poultry across the US where it is sold at nearly every major supermarket chain in the country. It is also exported to several European and South American countries.

(1) What is the problem reported in the newspaper articles?

(2) What questions do you have about the problem?

(3) How can you answer your questions? (Give a detailed explanation.)