The North Carolina General Assembly passed legislation in 1995 and 1996 requiring certification of operators of animal waste management systems that serve more than 250 swine, 100 confined cattle, 75 horses, 1,000 sheep or 30,000 poultry. To become certified, an operator must complete an approved 10-hour training course, pass an examination and pay a fee.

To remain certified, an operator must complete six hours of approved training during each three-year period following initial certification. Operators earn continuing education credits through training programs such as seminars, courses, lectures, workshops or in-house classes.

- More than 5,000 animal waste management system operators have been trained and certified in North Carolina.
- Almost 200 certification training sessions have been conducted in the state.
- The Water Pollution Control Systems Operator Certification Commission has approved 236 continuing education credit courses as of March 1, 2002.
- Approximately 867 animal waste management training classes have been conducted since the program’s inception.
- The Web site http://ces.soil.ncsu.edu/certification/index.htm provides information on the certification program, including the schedule of certification training examinations and continuing education activities. The site also contains the certification training manual.

Clean-up Detail

Animal waste: We don’t really want to think about it, but it must be dealt with. The Animal Waste Management System Operators’ Certification Training Program helps operators run and maintain efficient and environmentally sound systems.