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What is an Environmental Management System (EMS)?

• MANAGEMENT TOOL
• ISO Definition: The organizational structure, responsibilities, practices, procedures, processes and resources for implementing environmental management.
• EMS’s have been used worldwide in:
  – manufacturing,
  – processing,
  – service industries,
  – and agriculture.
What is an Environmental Management System (EMS)?

• An EMS is a systematic approach to dealing with the environmental aspects of an organization such as:
  – Water
  – Soil
  – Air
  – Regulations
  – Animal Environments
  – Neighbors

• An umbrella to link management programs already in place: NMP, pest management, finances and general farm management

• Does NOT have to be a bulky or cumbersome set of documents
What is an Environmental Management System (EMS)?

• Degrees of EMS’s recognized by the project
  – Partial: assessment only
  – Functional: all elements
  – Certified ISO 14000 or other certified systems: all elements, plus third party verification
Elements of an EMS

- Environmental Policy
- Assessment
- Planning
- Implementation and Operation
- Checking and Corrective Action
- Management Review
Environmental Policy

• A farm’s stated commitment to environmental management and continuous improvement
• The framework for setting objectives and targets
• Public relations tool
Assessment & Planning

- Identify environmental considerations of all activities
- Identify regulatory requirements
- Develop voluntary action plan that supports continuous improvements to issues identified during assessment and policy development
Implementation and Operation

• Define and communicate responsibilities
  – Who is responsible for what?
• Identify training needs and provide if necessary
• Proceed with actions defined in plan
• Provide for documentation of actions
Checking and Corrective Action

- Monitor key activities that have significant environmental impact
- Document positive actions and results
- Identify areas where additional actions are needed
Management Review

• Ensure that EMS continues to be relevant and effective
• Identify possible changes in policy, objectives or other elements of the farm EMS
EMS: A systems approach to continuous improvement
Potential Benefits for Producers

- Reduce liability and regulatory risks
- Maintain credit and insurance
- Maintain and improve public confidence
- Provide foundation for other programs
- Improve overall management
Potential Benefits for Regulators

- Improve compliance
- Document accountability
- Provide a framework where voluntary programs are promoted
- Reduce need for more regulations
- Provide education support
Emerging Benefits for Processors and Marketers

- Maintain and expand markets
- Increase public confidence
- Support environmental stewardship
Agricultural Environmental Management System (EMS) Situation

- New approach that is not well understood; “research in progress”
- Should build on successful programs: Farm*A*Syst, LPES, commodity association programs/recognitions
- Move from awareness and knowledge to practice
Agricultural Environmental Management System (EMS) Situation

- Stakeholders have different expectations.
- Benefits for producers need to be clear.
- Environmental protection benefits must be clear.
Partnerships for Livestock and Poultry EMS Project

National Project Goal:
Evaluate livestock environmental management systems as tools to address local priority environmental issues
Partnerships for Livestock
EMS Project Objectives:

• Develop, pilot test and evaluate environmental management systems for dairy, poultry and beef producers

• Develop and evaluate implementation strategies in nine states (three for each commodity area)

• National oversight lead by University of Wisconsin
Pilot States

- Define EMS approaches
- Develop or modify EMS Guides and Tools
- Develop Risk Assessment Tools
- Pilot Test and Evaluate Tools and EMS approaches on farms
Georgia Approach

• Partners include GPF, U.S. P & E, Gold Kist, GDA, & UGA, AWT

• Focus on EMS for dry litter operations

• If feasible, we hope agricultural EMS’s in GA will:
  – improve management
  – enhance stewardship
  – defend the industry
  – provide regulatory relief
Georgia Approach cont...

• Three groups:
  – Project staff-lead (Extension Specialists)
  – Self-lead w/ support materials and resources
  – Consultant lead
    • Agri-Waste Technology Inc.
    • EMS Inc. Suzanne Sessoms

• Flexibility with assessment
  – Farm*A*Syst, OFAER, local Extension help, on-farm brainstorming
Project Time Table

- **2000-2002:**
  - √ National project organization and groundwork

- **Spring/Summer 2003:**
  - √ Begin piloting and survey 1
  - √ Complete pilot tests and survey 2
  - – Conduct follow-up evaluations (limited number)
Time Table cont.

• Late Summer/Fall 2003:
  – Summarize GA experience
  – Produce report of GA results and experience
  – Conduct GA Forum on L&P EMS

• 2004:
  – Summarize all states
  – Complete and report national project
Summary

• 18 growers are currently completing projects
• Policy Statements developed were well thought out and personal
• Assessments were well received and led to goals for change
• Action Plans were developed
Summary

• Issues addressed in EMSs developed by participants:
  – Nutrient Management
  – Regulatory Compliance and Adherence to Permit Conditions
  – Petroleum Storage and Handling
  – Dust and Odor Movement
  – Pest Management and Pesticide Use
  – Emergency Planning
Summary

• We believe EMS could benefit poultry production in Georgia

• Questions:
  – What types of operations can benefit?
  – What type of approach works best?
  – How much time is required for development?
  – Are our anticipated benefits real?
Conclusion

• Thank you, questions?