



Title: Working with Producers - Developing an EMS for Swine Operations

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Organization: NCSU

State: NC **Region:** Southern

Year of Funding:

Theme: Animal Waste Management

Situation: Environmental Management Systems are utilized widely to assure compliance with environmental mandates. The EMS effort is utilized in Agribusiness facilities to support and promote environmental and occupational compliance. Recently the USDA and EPA developed a cooperative program to encourage the development of EMS programs in agribusiness. This presentation is a portion of the overall EMS effort.

Objectives: The principal objectives of the EMS effort are to assist producers with the development and implementation of an EMS effort. Secondary purpose is to assure regulatory agency personnel of the worth of the effort as a tool in assuring environmental compliance.

Methods: The training method involved a series of training workshops utilizing regulatory agency personnel and producers. Following the initial training efforts, a series of monthly meetings were conducted where producers and coaches worked cooperatively to develop a site-specific environmental management system.

Partnerships: Partnerships were developed between the regulatory agencies involved in the regulation of animal waste, the producers who are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the animal waste management facilities, and the extension service personnel involved in the training of individuals certified to manage animal waste.

Research: The EMS effort is beginning a second round of participation. Templates have been developed for producers and the second round will be expanded to include representatives from county government, municipal entities, other agribusiness operations, and extension.

Resources: State and extension personnel worked cooperatively with producers to generate templates and programs that can be utilized widely to support agricultural EMS efforts.

Results: To date, seven producers have developed an EMS program. The state regulatory agencies responsible for the oversight of compliance efforts recognize the value of this tool.



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