



Title: Livestock EMS development in Georgia

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Organization: University of Georgia

State: GA **Region:** Southern

Year of Funding: 2000

Theme: Pollution Assessment and Prevention

Situation: Poultry Producers in Georgia are under increasing pressure to meet newly developed environmental regulations. Environmental Management Systems (EMS) have worked in industry but are untested in Agriculture.

Objectives: The goal of this project was to develop and test tools to assist Georgia producers in implementing Livestock EMSs.

Methods: We investigated EMS implementation using three approaches. With the first group, we developed EMS guidebooks and assessment materials and allowed producers to use these materials on their own. With the second group, Extension professionals worked with these same materials to implement EMSs in small group settings. The final group worked with paid consultants to develop their EMSs. Products included poultry specific EMS guidebooks and assessments.

Partnerships: We worked with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and Pollution Prevention Assistance Division, the Georgia Poultry Federation, U.S. Poultry and Egg, and Goldkist Inc.

Research: Pre and Post surveys were used to determine the impact of EMS development. These surveys will be used to learn about the perceived benefits of EMSs as well as to assess differences between the various approaches. This research was coupled with effective outreach and education on EMSs with both the growers and with various stakeholders throughout Georgia.

Resources: All of the growers contributed their time and effort. In addition, other agencies involved contributed both financial and technical resources.

Results: Outcomes are still being assessed but we hope to have definitive recommendations on strategies for implementing poultry EMSs at a State level. In addition, several tools were developed that could easily be adapted to meet the needs of other states.



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