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## **Working with Animal Feeding Operations to Implement Best Management Practices**

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### Abstract Text:

In Kansas, any animal feeding operation with an animal unit capacity of 300 or more must register with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). Additionally, any facility that has the potential to cause significant water pollution must register with KDHE and implement best management practices (BMPs) to remove the pollution potential. Extension has been playing a leadership role in high priority watersheds in Kansas to assist livestock producers with waste management and water quality protection plans. The objective of this presentation is to share the process and resulting impacts of our work with small to mid-size livestock producers in the Blue River Basin of northeast Kansas. Using a Significant Pollution Potential Assessment worksheet, facilities are evaluated. The numerical value of the assessment determines the type and number of BMPs that need to be developed and implemented. These BMPs can include reducing the number of animals or animal units being fed; changing the feeding period; installing a vegetative buffer or increasing the size of an existing buffer; and installing a sediment basin and/or a lagoon. Conceptual drawings and management plans are developed for each cattle feed facility. This shows the livestock producer the types of BMPs that need to be implemented and the extent of the practices. By implementing the conceptual drawings and plans for management changes, livestock producers can reduce the potential for water pollution from their facilities, and be in compliance with the state regulations. In the last two years, conceptual drawings and management plans have been developed for 86 animal feeding operations. This involved implementing best management practices to reduce the pollution potential for 23,295 animal units. The success of this program has been built on the long-term commitment of Extension in the watershed and the relationship of trust among the producers and local agency personnel.

### Impact Statement:

In the last two years, conceptual drawings and management plans have been developed for 86 animal feeding operations. This involved implementing best management practices to reduce the pollution potential for 23,295 animal units or an average of 270 animal units per operation.