

Partnerships for **Livestock**



Environmental Management Systems



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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

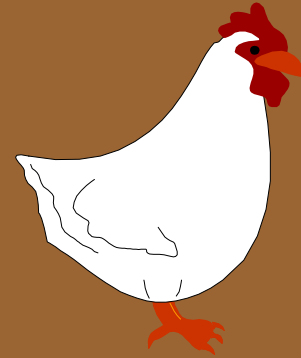
What is an Environmental Management System (EMS)?

- 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

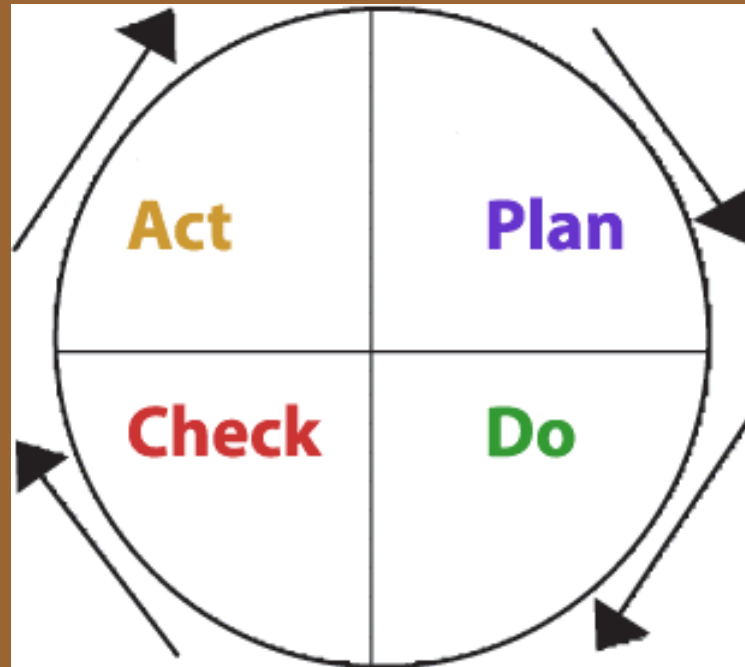
Checking and Corrective Action

- 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

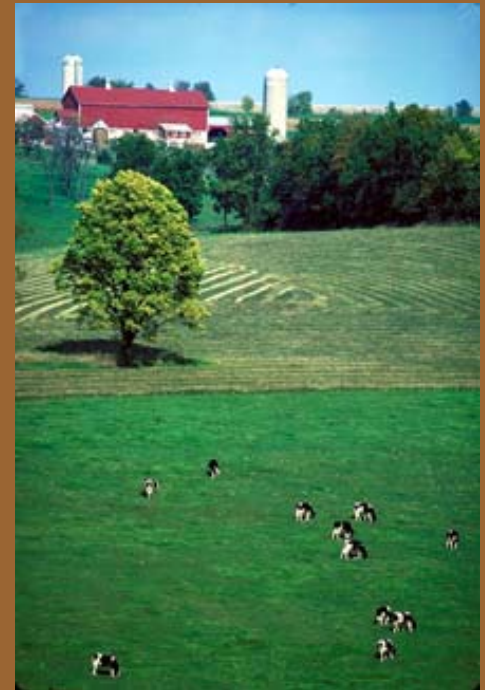
Agricultural Environmental Management System (EMS) Situation

- 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:

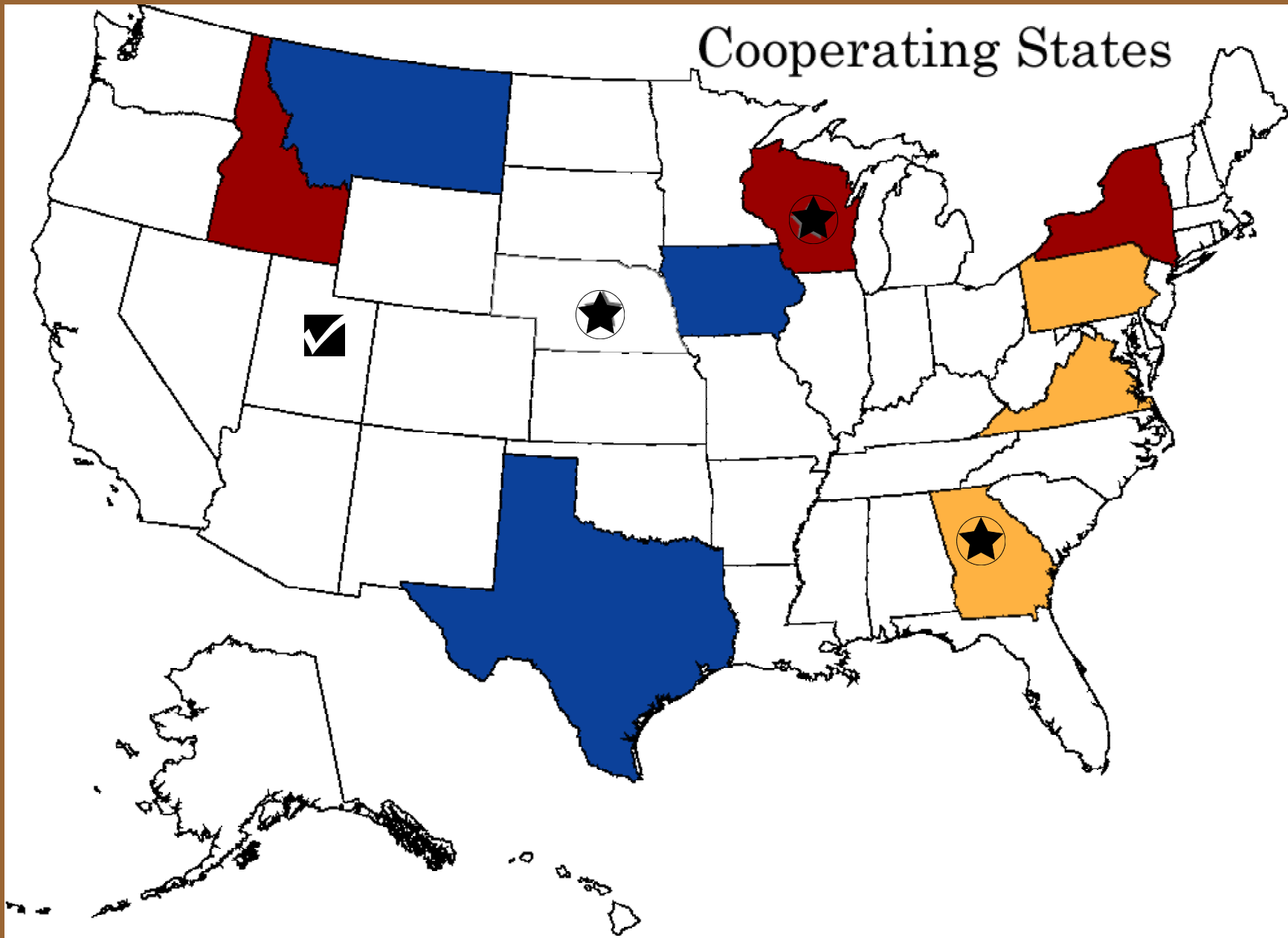
Evaluate livestock environmental management systems as tools to address local priority environmental issues



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

Cooperating States



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

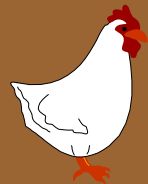
Summary

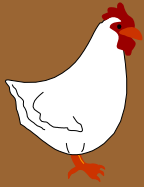
- 18 growers are currently completing projects
- Policy Statements developed were well thought out and personal
- Assessments were well received and led to goals for change
- Action Plans were developed



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?

