



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education and Economics
Agricultural Research Service

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Subject: Minutes of the Environmental Management System Committee Meeting
To: ARS Tifton Location Employees
From: Tamara Snipes, Chemist/EMS Coordinator

The EMS committee met on September 21, 2011 at 11:00 AM in the old CPMRU conference room. T. Snipes, T. Hendricks, R. Scarborough, P. Timper, T. Strickland, and K. Marchant were the committee members in attendance. J. Merriman retired recently and a CGBRU replacement will be made in the future.

Recycling has been the focus of EMS for FY11. All goals set for the year have been achieved as well as two goals from previous years that had remained incomplete. The Pesticide Operating Manual which was carried over from FY06 was completed. Also, mercury thermostat replacement was completed this year which was carried over from FY09. There is one outstanding goal from FY06 that remains which involves writing an environmental procedure for how we collect and dispose of hazardous waste. This has been brought to the attention of R. Scarborough and is expected to be completed in the near future.

J. Yelton was not at the meeting, but will be contacted to help list Facilities and Operations accomplishments as they relate to EMS for end of year reporting.

For the past few years, the state of Georgia has not offered Georgia Clean Day as a means of disposing of unwanted pesticides due to issues with funding. As a result, the UGA safety committee is working to organize a campus-wide disposal of pesticides. They have prepared a list of pesticides to obtain a bid from the company that is contracted with the state. Stan Diffie, chair of the UGA safety committee, provides updates as progress is made. We hope to be able to participate in the event when and if it is organized. However, since we have a number of pesticides for disposal an EMS goal for FY12 will be to dispose of these pesticides even if we have to independently organize a pickup.

Tracking energy consumption of our federal facilities was also agreed upon as a goal for FY12.

The EMS newsletter, The Green Gazette, has been produced on a quarterly basis. The committee recommended changing to biannual production due to the time involved to find and research topics. P. Timper will begin researching topics for the next edition of the newsletter.

The next meeting of the Location EMS Committee will be tentatively scheduled for November 2011.

