



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education and Economics
Agricultural Research Service

January 2, 2010

SUBJECT: Environmental Management System Policy

TO: West Lafayette, IN Location Staff

FROM: Donald C. Lay, Jr., Location Coordinator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald C. Lay, Jr.", written over the printed name in the "FROM:" field.

In accordance with current applicable greening Executive Order(s), Agency policy, and the Midwest Area Environmental Management System Policy Statement, West Lafayette, Indiana has established and implemented an Environmental Management System (EMS), which has been in place since 2005.

The West Lafayette Location consists of three management units: the Crop Production and Pest Control Research Unit (CPPCU), National Soil Erosion Research Laboratory (NSERL) and the Livestock Behavior Research Unit (LBRU). The CPPCU determines the biochemical basis and genetic control of disease and insect resistance in grain crops and of chemical constituents and disease resistance in soybeans. NSERL develops the knowledge in soil erosion science and technology for assessing the on- and off-site impacts of erosion to conserve soil and water resources for future generations. The LBRU develops scientific measures of animal well-being through the study of animal behavior, stress physiology, immunology, neurophysiology, and cognition that will allow an objective evaluation of animal agricultural practices and will assist in improving animal health, increasing productivity and decreasing human exposure to dangerous pathogens. Effective support services in procurement, personnel, safety, budget, accounting, travel, property and related activities are provided by the Location Support Staff.

It is the goal of the West Lafayette Location to continually identify and actively manage environmental aspects in order to minimize associated environmental impacts. It is our objective, at a minimum, to fully comply with all related Federal, State, and local regulations.

Specific objectives:

- Protect the environment
- Prevent pollution
- Reduce, reuse and recycle solid waste
- Reduce hazardous waste disposal quantities and costs
- Minimize releases to the environment
- Improve interaction with environmental regulators

- Improve community relations

Activities:

- Develop goals and objectives annually by identifying aspects and impacts, legal requirements, and possible improvements
- Implement activities and operations (i.e. training, recycling, proactive procurement, and activities documentation)
- Monitor and measure the status of program objectives, the system, and procedures
- Senior management review of EMS performance

Specific goals:

- Promote annual EMS awareness training for all employees
- Increase the use of double-sided printing whenever feasible
- Increase the use of alternative fuels in government-owned vehicles and reduction of overall fuel consumption by 5% through employee education on various driving techniques, route-planning, etc.
- Promote “green” purchasing by cardholders and incorporate appropriate clauses in contracts
- Increase recycling of paper, cardboard, aluminum, etc.
- Encourage hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles when replacing GOV’s

The EMS is an ongoing process, including all the elements of West Lafayette’s current Environmental Program in a coordinated effort of continuous improvement.

cc:

C. Mathers, ASHM

R. Jesse, AEPS

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