



United States Department of Agriculture  
Research, Education and Economics  
Agricultural Research Service

August 26, 2016

SUBJECT: Environmental Management System Policy

TO: Location Staff

FROM: Jerry Hatfield  
Location Coordinator

In accordance with Executive Order 13693, "Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade", and per the USDA, REE, ARS, Environmental Management System Policy Statement dated June 28, 2004, and the Midwest Area Environmental Management System Policy dated December 18, 2008, the Ames ISU Campus Units (Corn Insects and Crop Genetics, National Lab for Agriculture and the Environment, and Plant Introduction), Ames, IA have established and implemented an Environmental Management System.

### Location Research Mission

#### *Corn Insects and Crop Genetics*

The mission of the Unit is to 1) develop strategies for genetic and genomic improvements of adapted and exotic corn germplasm; 2) develop basic understandings of the soybean genome via genetic and cytogenetic analyses; 3) elucidate molecular mechanisms of interactions between cereal pathogens and their hosts; 4) develop environmentally sound strategies to manage pest insects of corn; 5) advance the science of bioinformatics to better understand the complex gene interactions within barley, corn, and soybean, and 6) managing model organism databases and providing community support for the crops corn and soybean.

#### *National Lab for Agriculture and the Environment*

The mission of the laboratory is to generate information which addresses critical problems in agriculture and watershed management leading to the development of innovative solutions which increase the efficiency of agriculture systems and reduce environmental risk. Transdisciplinary teams address this mission through coordinated research addressing problems in abiotic and biotic systems that underpin agricultural and watershed systems.



### *Plant Introduction*

This Unit's mission is to expand the genetic diversity of priority plant genetic resource (PGR) collections, to improve associated information and information management tools that facilitate their conservation and utilization in research and crop improvement. The activities of the unit, together with research and development applications, support sustainable agricultural productivity, health and nutrition, and economic growth.

#### **EMS Goals and Objectives**

Our EMS goals are to systematically identify and actively manage environmental aspects that are present at the Ames Campus Units. It is our objective to fully comply with related Federal, state and local regulations applying to these aspects. Whenever feasible, the Unit will utilize pollution prevention initiatives as the means for achieving compliance. We will strive to minimize impacts and continually improve our environmental.

All research will be designed to assure the following objectives:

- Protection of the Environment
- Reduction, Reuse and Recycling of Solid Waste
- Reduction of Hazardous Waste Disposal Quantities and Costs
- Minimization of Releases to the Environment
- Improved Interaction with Environmental Regulators
- Improved Community Relations
- Conservation Of Natural Resources

Activities:

- Establish a policy that is endorsed by top management and states the Location's commitments.
- Develop goals and objectives by identifying impacts, legal requirements, and 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.
- Management review of EMS performance by SHEM Committee with results reported to the LD, LC & RLs.

We will then embark upon the process of performing periodic review and updates. The EMS will be ongoing, gathering together all elements of the Ames Campus Unit's current Environmental Program in coordinated effort of continuous improvement.

cc:

Ralph Jesse

