



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education and Economics
Agricultural Research Service

April 6, 2006

SUBJECT: Environmental Management System Policy

TO: Scientists, Support Staff and Students

FROM: Abdullah Jaradat, Research Leader

In accordance with Executive Order 13148, Greening The Government Through Leadership In Environmental Management, the USDA, REE, ARS, Environmental Management System Policy Statement dated June 28, 2004, and the Midwest Area Environmental Management System Policy dated December 17, 2004, the North Central Soil Conservation Research Laboratory (NCSCRL) has established and implemented an Environmental Management System.

Location Research Mission

The Research Mission of the NCSCRL is to develop agricultural systems in the Midwest that are environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable by providing knowledge and technologies for proper land, crop, and weed management to enhance the biological, chemical, and physical properties of soils, and to improve environmental quality.

Environmental Management System (EMS) Goals and Objectives

Our EMS goal is to systematically identify and actively manage environmental aspects that are present at NCSCRL. It is our objective, at a minimum, to fully comply with related Federal, State and local regulations applying to these aspects.

Specific objectives are to:

- protect the environment;
- prevent pollution and minimize releases to the environment;
- conserve natural resources and energy;
- reduce, reuse and recycle solid waste;
- reduce hazardous waste disposal quantities and costs;
- improve interaction with environmental regulators; and
- improve community relations.



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Activities:

- follow policies outlined in the NCSCRL Safety, Health and Environmental Management (SHEM) Program as endorsed by top management and states the Location's commitments;
- support the NCSCRL SHEM Committee;
- refine existing research goals and objectives by identifying impacts, legal requirements, objectives, and continual improvements;
- implement operations as outlined in the NSCRL SHEM Program;
- unwanted and/or used hazardous materials are turned over to the University of Minnesota Department of Environmental Health and Safety (<http://www.dehs.umn.edu>);
- Engebretson Sanitary Disposal removes most recyclable materials from NCSCRL under Stevens County recycling program;
- monitor and measure the status of NCSCRL SHEM Program objectives, the system, and procedures;
- review of EMS performance by senior management.

cc:

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