



April 22, 2009

SUBJECT: Environmental Management System Policy

TO: Location Staff

FROM: Location Coordinator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Simon", is written over the "FROM:" line.

In accordance with Executive Order 13423, Strengthening Federal Environmental Energy and Transportation Management, 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 Madison Location has established and implemented an Environmental Management System.

Location Research Mission

The Madison Location is comprised of three Management Units, [Cereal Crops](#), [Vegetable Crops](#) and [U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center](#). The Research Mission of these Units is: the Cereal Crops Research Unit identifies & characterizes biological & biochemical mechanisms that affect cereal quality leading to enhanced germplasm or improved production practices and evaluates barley and oat germplasm for quality. The Vegetable Crops Research Unit investigates the genetics, cytogenetics, taxonomy, disease resistance, physiology, molecular biology and breeding strategies of vegetable crops leading to enhanced germplasm and improved productivity and quality of those crops. The U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center addresses national problems which limit effective and efficient use of forage for production of milk; increase yields and quality of forage grown and harvested, reducing losses associated with harvesting, storage and feeding, and maximizing use of forage nutrients by dairy cows for milk production.

EMS Goals and Objectives

Our EMS goal is to systematically identify and actively manage environmental aspects that are present at the Madison Location. It is our objective, at a minimum, to embrace a commitment to environmental compliance, pollution prevention, conservation practices, continual improvement and to fully comply with related Federal, State and local regulations applying to these aspects.

Specific objectives are to:

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

Activities include;

- maintain a policy endorsed by top management and states the Location's commitments;
- designate and train at least one Environmental Officer;
- develop goals and objectives identifying impacts, legal requirements, objectives, 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; and
- management review of EMS performance by senior management.

The Environmental Management System was implemented and documented on January 31, 2005.

We will continue the process of performing periodic reviews and updates. The EMS will be ongoing, gathering together all the elements of the Madison Location's current Environmental Program in a coordinated effort of continuous improvement.

cc:

L. Chandler, AD
D. Strub, DAD
C. Mather, ASHM
R. Jesse, AEPS
CDSO
SCC
EO