

Environmental Management Systems for Pork Producers

What is an EMS?

An environmental management system (EMS) is an organized approach to managing and preventing environmental impacts through a continual cycle of planning, implementing, reviewing and improving all farm activities. An EMS is **voluntary** and **non-regulatory** assistance is available.

How can an EMS benefit my operation?

- Helps organize regulatory requirements;
- Aids in NOV and NOD reductions;
- Encourages pollution prevention;
- Addresses all environmental impacts;
- Improves record-keeping;
- Helps prevent environmental accidents;
- Advances overall administrative efficiency;
- Reduces potential liability;
- Streamlines everyday activities;
- Increases employee awareness/accountability;
- Improves public image;
- Strengthens community relationships;
- Enhances customer trust;
- Reduces operating costs; and
- Increases access to international markets.

“Although the EMS has not instantaneously corrected all of my problems, it has given me the vision needed to address environmental impacts related to my farm. I feel confident that my overall operation will be dramatically enhanced by the implementation of an EMS.”

EMS Assistance Tools

The Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance (DPPEA) created an online guidance tool to assist pork producers with EMS development. This tool includes:

- EMS explanation;
- Step-by-step instructions;
- Sample standard operation procedures (SOPs);
- Checklists; and
- Sample EMS manual to customize with your farm’s information.

The online guidance also includes the **Aspects/Impacts Manager (AIM)**. Using AIM, a producer can identify all the farm activities that impact the environment. From that, a table is created to rank the most significant environmental impacts from highest to lowest. Identification of the significant impacts of your operations is an important building block for the EMS. This prioritization is essential in identifying the activities of farm operations where you will need to focus improvement efforts.

Visit: <http://xapps.enr.state.nc.us/survey/index.jsp>

Documents in the online guidance can be downloaded

from a computer and customized to your specific operation. These tools were developed from working with eight North Carolina pork producers who voluntarily designed and implemented an EMS on their farm.

Visit: <http://www.p2pays.org/porktool/>





DPPEA is a **non-regulatory** agency that provides **free** technical assistance.

Please contact DPPEA if you are:

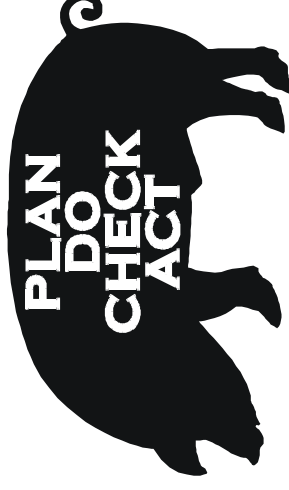
- Interested in receiving more information about EMS,
- Have questions on how to use the online tools, or
- If you would like to create an EMS for your organization.

For More Information, contact:

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N. C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance
Department of Environment and Natural Resources