

# Agricultural Management Assessment

Farm name

Address

Phone #

**Signature** of person(s) leading EMS: \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** this summary completed: \_\_\_\_\_

## We have an **environmental policy**

### Environmental Policy

We involved these stakeholders in the development of the policy

Owners

Staff

Family

Consultants

Neighbors

Community

Others: \_\_\_\_\_

**We currently have procedures, practices and/or plans in place to address these environmental issues:**

**Surface Water Issues**

- Sediment / soil erosion polluting surface waters
- Manure from cropland polluting surface waters
- Manure from farmstead facilities polluting surface waters
- Build up / excessive soil phosphorus
- Pesticide runoff to surface waters
- Silage runoff to surface waters
- Petroleum leakage/spills polluting surface waters
- Pollution of surface waters with pathogens
- Streambank erosion
- Milkhouse discharge
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Groundwater Issues**

- Nitrogen from facilities contaminating well water
- Nitrogen leaching to groundwater from cropland
- Pollution of well water w/pathogens
- Pesticides leaching to groundwater
- Silage seepage to groundwater
- Petroleum leakage/spills polluting groundwater
- Irrigation water use or contamination related issues
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Air Quality Issues**

- Odor
- Dust
- Ammonia (NH4) emissions
- Engine exhaust emissions
- Pesticide drift
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Wildlife & Habitat Issues**

- Maintain/improve/develop upland wildlife habitat
- Maintain/improve/develop aquatic wildlife habitat
- Maintain/improve/develop endangered/rare species habitat
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Solid and Hazardous Waste Issues**

- Solid waste handling / disposal
- Hazardous waste (fuels, lubricants, coolants, pesticides, etc) handling / disposal
- Veterinary products (e.g. antibiotics, hormones, copper sulfate, etc.) use and disposal
- Mortality handling / disposal
- Recycling / resource recovery
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Farm Nuisance, Appearance**

- Farmstead appearance; esthetics
- Manure & mud on roads
- Noise
- Flies
- Traffic
- Light pollution
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Issues**

- Soil quality impacts on productivity (e.g., erosion, compaction, infiltration, etc.)
- Pesticide health risks to humans or livestock
- Energy conservation
- On-farm energy production (e.g., wind, methane)
- Certified organic production
- Managed/sustainable forestry
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Our farm is in full compliance with **environmental regulations**

We determined regulatory status by:

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Notes on meeting or exceeding regulatory requirements:

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We have determined our **priority environmental issues**

The priority environmental issues we are currently working on:

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We identified these issues together with:

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Owner(s)/manager(s)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Staff       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specialists/expert(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Consultants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbors/community   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other:      |

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We have **assessed** our priority environmental issues

This was done with:

- On-line or other assessment tools
- Worked with staff to identify environmental aspects and impacts
- Worked with specialists to conduct on-farm assessment(s)
- Worked with consultants to conduct on-farm assessment(s)
- Bulletins, fact sheets, reference books, etc.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Self Assessment – Go to Appendix A

Check and complete all that apply to YOUR operation	Appendix A, Page Number
<input type="checkbox"/> Questions for <b>EVERY OPERATION</b> Appearance of facilities – questions 1-3 Location of facilities – questions 4-6 Soils & Landscapes – questions 7-8 Drinking Water Supply – questions 9-16 Environmental Planning – questions 17-20 Storm Water Management – questions 21-23 Odor and Dust Management – questions 24-34	1- 6
<input type="checkbox"/> I have a barnyard or open feedlot Design & Management – questions 35-51	6-9
<input type="checkbox"/> I have a feedlot, corrals, and/or calving lots Manure Handling Runoff Issues – questions 52-58 Groundwater Management – question 59-63 Runoff Control Design: questions 64-84 A holding pond – questions 69-75 A filter strip or a waste mgt. wetland – questions 76-81 Runoff is not contained – questions 82-84	9-15
<input type="checkbox"/> I have stored feed that includes silage and grains – questions 85-89	15-16
<input type="checkbox"/> I store manure – questions 90-93 Written Manure Management Plan – questions 94-96 Manure Management Records – questions 97-99 Liquid Manure Storage Areas – questions 100-111	16-19
<input type="checkbox"/> I have a winter feed area – questions 112-123	20-21

Based on the assessment(s) of our priority issues:

*Copy this sheet for each priority Issue.*

- We have **objectives** for addressing this priority issue
- We use **performance measures** for this priority issue
- We **monitor** our environmental performance for this priority issue
- We have an **action plan** for addressing this priority issue

**Priority Issue:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Objective(s):**

**Performance Measure(s):**

**Monitoring Activity(s):**

The **action plan** for this issue includes the following practices, plans, procedures and/or technologies to address this environmental priority, including *what* will be done, *who* will do it and *when* it will get done:

## We have **emergency action plans**

They cover:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chemical leaks, spills | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accidents              | <input type="checkbox"/> Manure leaks, spills          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment failure      | <input type="checkbox"/> Structure or facility failure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weather related        | <input type="checkbox"/> Power failure                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____           |  |
- We involve emergency responders in emergency planning
  - Staff are trained in emergency preparedness, prevention and response
  - Staff have the resources needed to respond to and mitigate emergencies

## Our **AgEMS internal communications** strategy includes:

- Regular staff meetings
- Regular training sessions
- Bulletin boards
- One-on-one staff consultations and reviews
- Regular letters, fax, e-mail communications to staff
- New employee orientation
- Employees understand and can explain our environmental policy
- Employees understand and can explain the benefits of environmental stewardship
- Employees can explain what our priority environmental issues are
- Employees can explain how our environmental objectives will be achieved
- Employees understand and can explain our emergency action plans
- Employees are encouraged to report nonconformance or problems
- Employees are encouraged to suggest improvements
- Other:



**Our AgEMS external communications strategy includes:**

- Involving stakeholders in the development of the EMS
- Sharing environmental policy with stakeholders
- Sharing successes / environmental improvements
- Sharing results of assessments with interested parties
- Responding to complaints (odors, flies, noise, pesticide drift, etc.) in a timely manner
- Responding to inquiries in a timely manner
- Give neighbors contact information in case they have a complaint
- Regularly making an effort to talk with neighbors and ask about their concerns
- Offering tours to interested individuals or groups
- Training employees about how to greet visitors
- Clearly marking the farm office to direct visitors
- Inviting community for social or educational events
- Notifying neighbors in advance of potentially odorous activities
- Offering a newsletter, fact sheet, or communication about the farm's environmental management to neighbors, civic leaders, the press or others
- Asking neighbors to track odors or other nuisances to determine which farm activities are most likely to generate complaints and/or where controls may be needed
- Esthetically attractive and landscaped farmland and farmstead
- An enclosed mortality pick-up area
- Screened manure storage areas
- Involvement in civic organizations or volunteer efforts
- Encouraging employees to be active in civic organizations or volunteer efforts
- Sponsor or contribute to youth or school events and fundraisers
- Participating in activities of local conservation/environmental groups
- Other:

The last AgEMS management review was: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

It covered:

- Environmental Policy
- Priority Issues
- Environmental Objectives
- Performance Measures
- Communications
- Regulatory Review
- Environmental Assessments
- Emergency Planning
- Environmental Action Plan
- Audit Results

It involved:

- Management
- Staff
- Other Stakeholders: \_\_\_\_\_
- Consultants
- Specialists

**Objective(s) met for priority issue(s) and our EMS:**

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**Objective(s) exceeded for priority issue(s) and our EMS:**

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**Future objective(s), issue(s) and plans for next round of our EMS:**

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## Benefits realized as a result of our AgEMS process:

### Business

- Improved communication with replacement farm operator (vacation, illness, death etc.)
- Improved communication with employees
- Employees feel a part of operation and are taking more responsibility for the environment
- Better integration of environmental management and business plan
- Preventing and dealing with emergencies better
- Proactively getting ahead of issues
- Discovering important issues we did not think or fully appreciate about previously
- We understand environmental risks better
- We have reduced risks
- Savings or increased income from environmental protection and business improvement
- Has helped to coordinate existing environmental plans and BMPs
- Insurance premium reduction
- Reduction of loan interest rates
- Remaining in business
- Maintaining access to markets
- Increased access to markets
- Better able to adapt to changing circumstances
- Moved to a higher level of management
- Preventive maintenance replacing crisis management after equipment failure
- Has made us better business managers and environmental stewards
- Reduced wasted inputs ( \_\_\_ Feed \_\_\_ Water \_\_\_ Nutrients \_\_\_ Energy )
- Gaining control of our environmental management
- Improving profitability
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## (Benefits realized continued)

### Regulations

- Making progress in areas not regulated/enforced
- EMS has prevented legal fines and penalties
- Reduced fines and legal expenses
- Reduces stepped up fines in the event of a second-time event
- Regulator acceptance of a good business
- Regulatory or enforcement flexibility
- Demonstrates continuous planning
- Demonstrates responsibility
- Is preventing pollution
- Full compliance with regulations
- Continuous environmental improvement
- Higher employee vigilance has reduced and/or avoided issues and resulting penalties
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Community Relations

- Improved communication with neighbors
- Neighbors communicate about their concerns and needs
- Cost of dealing with the public lower
- Complaints come to us first instead of regulators
- Neighbors better understand what you do and why you do it
- Stakeholders have become valuable source of input/information
- Stakeholders have become involved in finding solutions
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Our AgEMS has been audited

The last audit was conducted by \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_