



PigTales

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DPPEA Pilot Farmer Moore Receives National Honor

Henry Moore of Bobcat Farms, a Sampson County producer and a Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance EMS pilot farmer, won the National Pork Board Checkoff's national Environmental Steward award. The award is presented annually to four producers nationwide. To be considered an Environmental Steward, judges identify producers throughout the nation who exemplify the highest environmental standards at their operations.



Moore is the second North Carolina producer to receive this honor. The first N.C. producer to receive the award was Bundy Lane, a Gates County producer, who is a previous DPPEA EMS pilot farmer. Moore and his father operate a 4,800 sow farrow-to-wean operation in Sampson County.

"We live here, drink the same water and breathe the same air as everyone else," said Moore. "No one wants to protect the environment more than we do, for our families and neighbors. Implementing an EMS gave us another tool to help protect and improve the environment, and our commitment was evident to the award judges."

The judges determine the winners by evaluating the farms' manure management systems, natural resources conservation methods, community relationships, wildlife habitat enhancement, odor-control strategies and progressive and innovative ideas used to reduce their footprint on the environment.

The stewards were honored in Washington, D.C., in September and will receive recognition from their peers at the 2007 National Pork Industry Forum in Anaheim, Calif.

EPA Takes Step in Controlling Air Pollution from AFOs

EPA has received approval to gather air emissions data from animal feeding operations and to ensure operations are complying with current environmental laws. Certain AFOs will voluntarily take part in a nationwide monitoring study to evaluate their air emissions.



Realizing it did not have sufficient air emissions data to determine potential regulatory requirements for AFOs under the Clean Air Act, the EPA began discussions with AFOs owners in 2001. As a result, the EPA offered individual AFOs an opportunity to voluntarily sign a consent agreement committing to conduct a nationwide study to monitor their air emissions. This consent agreement also resolves certain air violations under the Clean Air Act.

The EPA's Environmental Appeals Board recently finalized the agreements and the industry-led monitoring survey will begin this winter. Within 18 months following the monitoring study's conclusion, EPA will evaluate all data and publish emission-estimating methods for AFOs. These methods will allow AFOs to estimate their emissions and comply with applicable federal regulatory requirements as appropriate. EPA feels this approach will achieve environmental compliance much faster than other enforcement mechanisms.

More information on the AFOs Air Compliance Agreement can be found at:

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/agreements/caa/cafo-agr-0604.html>.

2006 EMS Pilot Farmer Final Meeting

The N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance hosted the EMS Pilot Farmers for a final meeting Aug. 16. The pilot farmers had participated in a program made possible by an EPA grant to determine if environmental management systems could be used to reduce compliance issues on a pork production operation.



Norma Murphy, ESI manager, describes benefits of the program.

During this wrap-up session, the pilot participants/farm representatives learned the results of the grant project and gave feedback about using an EMS on their hog operations.

The preliminary results of the project presented at the workshop demonstrated an EMS could assist with reducing compliance issues at hog operations. The farmers were all in agreement that an EMS was helpful for them and improved their overall management and operational functions of the farm. They noted they would recommend EMS to other producers.

"My experience with EMS was very beneficial and can be a great asset to all aspects of your business, not just environmental," said Tommy Porter of Porter Farms. "The EMS is great tool for farming because it can be applied to other business aspects of farm operations."

Each producer will receive one more farm visit in the spring of 2007 to finalize data for the grant.



Senators Work to Have Agricultural Exempted From Superfund

With the support of farm groups, Senator Larry Craig (R-Idaho) is working to gather congressional support for a bill to exempt large farms from the Superfund law.

In the past, lawmakers have made similar efforts for Superfund exemptions for farm operations but have not been successful in final bill passage. As farm groups have become more involved, members' support has grown. Senate members who saw the legislation as environmentally unfriendly in the past are now beginning to support it. To date the bill has at least 30 co-sponsors.

Bill supporters note CERCLA and EPCRA were written for large industrial facilities and were never intended to apply to agricultural operations. Environmental groups caution that as farms go into larger-scale production, they should be subject to the same pollution control and reporting laws as other industries.

Top farm groups will actively lobby for the measure this year, while environmental groups continue to rally against it.



Pig Tales is an online publication of the N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources. For more information call (919) 715-6500 or (800) 763-0136, or write to DPPEA, 1639 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1639.

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