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NCDENR
North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Release: Immediate
Date: May 14, 2001

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Distribution: Statewide

POLLUTION PREVENTION AGENCY RECEIVES FUNDING TO ASSIST PORK PRODUCERS IN MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

RALEIGH – A proposal developed by the N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance (DPPEA) to assist North Carolina's pork producers in the systematic management of their environmental activities was one of 25 grants (out of more than 450 proposals) funded recently by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

DPPEA will receive $200,000 over the next two years from an EPA Water Quality Cooperative Agreement to develop tools and test outreach techniques for working with the state's pork producers in implementing environmental management systems (EMSs). DPPEA will work on the project in cooperation with the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service and the N.C. State University Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering. Interest in an EMS model for pork producers has increased since the separate agreements signed last year between the North Carolina attorney general's office and Smithfield Foods and Premium Standard – which, among other things, require both companies to implement an ISO 14001-based EMS on all company-owned farms.

An EMS is a tool that provides organizations with a method to systematically manage their environmental activities, provides structure, and helps them to achieve environmental obligations and performance goals. An EMS follows a Plan-Do-Check-Act cycle or PDCA and can be used by a wide range of organizations – from manufacturing facilities to service industries to agricultural operations to government agencies. ISO 14001 is an international standard adopted in 1996 that many organizations use as their model for an EMS.

Goals of this project include:

- Identifying up to seven pilot farms that DPPEA and partner agency staff will assist with EMS design and implementation;
- Developing EMS tools for use by pork producers;
- Posting these tools and information on the agency's Web site (http://www.p2pays.org) for use by English and Spanish readers; and
- Educating DENR regulatory and non-regulatory staff and others about EMS and its potential benefits.

U.S. EPA's Water Quality Cooperative Agreements are provided to promote the coordination of environmentally beneficial activities, including stormwater control, sludge management and pretreatment. Proposals selected are most likely to advance the ability of state and federal governments to deal with water pollution problems and address concerns of a national scope.

For more information about this project, please contact Barbara Satler, DPPEA environmental specialist, at (919) 715-6519/6500 or barbara.satler@ncmail.net. For more information about EMS, please visit http://www.p2pays.org/iso/.

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