

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Quarterly Report 9 - Covering the first and second quarters of calendar 2007 (January through June)

I. PHASE I PROGRESS

Ongoing tasks for Phase 1 include:

- Monitoring the progress of volunteers. The table submitted in the 4th Quarter 2006 report summarized the progress of the Phase 1 (third-party assessment/certification in Stearns and Winona counties) volunteers. No changes are known to have occurred since that report;
- Collecting inspection forms from County Feedlot Officers (CFOs) to fill in missing baselines where possible, and for final inspections during Certification Walkthroughs or Final Project Assessments;
- Collecting data from Minnesota Milk Producers Association (MMPA) technicians on findings of Certification Walkthroughs and Final Project Assessments.

Tasks completed during the reporting period:

- Finalized (April 2007) the deployment of MMPA technicians and regulatory inspectors (whether CFOs or MPCA feedlot staff) to conduct Certification Walkthroughs and Final Project Assessments for those volunteers requiring them. For the volunteers, we are aiming to get one EQA Technician site visit per volunteer by September 1, 2007 so that Minnesota Milk Producers Association staff can wrap up their project grant by its end date of September 30.
- In cooperation with MPCA and in conjunction with its annual training for EQA program service providers, MMPA completed a one-day training (March 15, 2007) of EQA Technicians on Nutrient Management Planning (and tools for helping producers) and using the Feedlot Evaluation (runoff) Model.

II. PHASE 2 PROGRESS

Following is a summary of progress on Phase 2 deliverables scheduled for the October-December 2006 timeframe.

1. Phase 2 workplan – developed the inspection plan with assistance from Mike Crow and Art Lubin of Region 5, and assembled existing staff resources necessary to cover those inspections (May).
2. Completed the statistical methodology and Quality Assurance Project Plan in February (with pre-approval from Art Lubin), and submitted to Region 5 for signature in March. Approval complete in June.
3. Completed self-assessment package and mailed to volunteers in February.
4. Unsuccessfully tried several means of hiring internal candidates to conduct FERP inspections, and finally developed position description and external solicitation for new (temporary) staff paid by federal funds from the Cooperative Agreement. Staff hired and started in June; some volunteer and control group inspections were completed in June.
5. Submitted application to Region 5 for a no-cost extension of the Cooperative Agreement to 9/30/08 in order to accommodate a second round of self-assessments and verification inspections, one year after the initial round, in order to assess the rate of progress being made. The extension was approved by Region 5 in June and accepted by MPCA in July.
6. Guidebook development – still in redrafting and review.

III. LEVEL OF EXPENDITURES

Financial Information removed by EPA as confidential business information.

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