



## **COMPREHENSIVE LIVESTOCK ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS – WEST PROGRAM**

The Comprehensive Livestock Environmental Assessment and Nutrient Management Plans West (CLEANmp) Program is overseen by the Environmental Resources Coalition (ERC), under a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This program is designed to provide livestock and poultry producers with a mechanism to obtain environmental assessments (EA) of their operations, nutrient management plan (NMP) development or review, or both, at no cost to the producer (Note, the scope of the CLEANmp services does not include the collection of soil or manure samples). These services are provided by approved independent service providers. To become an approved service provider, an individual must meet strict program required educational and experience requirements, as well as agreeing to abide by the CLEANmp program rules.

ERC has contracted SES, Inc. (SES) to act as the program administrator, which includes managing service providers, bidding, data and service provider quality control, and maintaining aggregate CLEANmp data. Information from an EA or NMP project will be entered into a database. This information will never be tied to a specific producer; rather, it will be tied to general geographic (e.g., state or watershed) and production-type descriptors, such as: animal type, operation size, production methods, manure handling, crop rotation, and other general production operation descriptors.

Participation in CLEANmp is voluntary and available to any producer in EPA Regions 7, 8, 9 and 10 (excluding Hawaii). Producers must request a CLEANmp EA or NMP project by completing a project application form. Approved CLEANmp service providers will then submit bids to complete the requested project. The bid that represents the best value and quality to the producer and to the program is accepted, and the winning service provider is notified.

The EA is built upon the guidance found in the Good Environmental Livestock Production Practices (GELPP). The GELPPs have been approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as standards for environmental practices at livestock and poultry operations. The NMP program will either develop or revise a producer's NMP. The resulting NMP will meet the requirements of both EPA for an NMP and the Natural Resources Conservation Service for a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP).

If a producer decides to request assistance under the CLEANmp program, the following process will be applied:

1. The producer will submit an *Application and Preliminary Information Survey* form to SES. This form can be filled out online at [www.cleanmp-west.org](http://www.cleanmp-west.org) or printed and submitted via mail or facsimile. The information requested on this form will allow the producer to briefly describe his or her operation and to specify if they want an EA, an NMP or both.
2. The producer's application will be entered into a secure web-based database viewable by approved CLEANmp service providers. Any approved service provider can bid for a CLEANmp project by accessing the secure service provider website. A project will be open for bid for seven days. By bidding on a project, the service provider certifies that there is no conflict of interest and that he or she can provide the technical assistance within the required time frame after receiving SES's notice-to-proceed. An EA must be completed within 45 days of a service provider getting a notice-to-proceed and an NMP project must be completed within 75 days of a service provider receiving a notice-to-proceed, or within 45 days of the onsite farm/operation visit, whichever is less.
3. At the end of seven days, SES will select the service provider to conduct the project. The producer will be notified of this selection and the service provider will be given a notice-to-proceed with the project.
4. The service provider will communicate with the producer, obtaining additional information and scheduling an on-farm visit to conduct the EA or NMP data collection. The service provider will use EA and NMP data collection checklists developed by the program administrator. At the conclusion of the on farm visit the service provider will give the producer an exit interview where observations and findings will be discussed. After the project has been completed, the service provider will send the original data collection forms and reports to SES for review. When the documents are deemed to meet CLEANmp quality requirements, the report will be forwarded to the producer and the service provider will be paid by ERC.
5. When SES receives completed data collection forms and reports, the data will be entered into either the EA or NMP reporting database. Newly entered data will be stored in queue and it will not be added to the main database until it has been quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) checked. Detailed QA/QC checks will be conducted on each project's documents when they are received, prior to data entry. When the data has been through the QA/QC process, the associated service provider report will be sent to the producer whom requested the specific project.

SES is the only entity that will have access to the CLEANmp databases and it will not release producer-specific information to anyone other than the producer whose project generated the specific data. Service providers will destroy all project related documents 30 days after a project is completed.

6. SES will conduct service provider oversight on approximately 10 percent of the projects. This oversight will monitor consistent program implementation and the technical competency of the service providers.
7. To monitor the overall impact of the CLEANmp Program on the environment, a select number of participating producers will be asked to allow follow-up visits to evaluate the program's impact on the environment and management practices.

