

# **Environmental Programs for Pork Producers**

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**T**here is no sense in reinventing the wheel. So when the National Pork Producers Council developed two programs to assist pork producers to resolve their waste management concerns, NDSU Extension's Livestock Waste Technical Information and Assistance Program supported their use in North Dakota.

The earlier program is the Environmental Assurance Program (EAP). As part of the program, manuals are available covering pollution prevention strategies, record keeping, management of manure storage and treatment structures, proper land application of manure, manure nutrient planning, emergency action plans and community relations. The material is discussed during intensive, half-day or day-long workshops. The curriculum was developed by the nation's leading university extension specialists and private engineers.

The On Farm Odor/Environmental Assistance program became available to North Dakota producers in 1999. The program was designed to provide pork producers with a tool to objectively assess the management of the environmental side of their operation. Trained engineers and technicians make detailed observations of an operation's buildings, equipment, manure storage and handling structures, and a detailed assessment of the producer's manure management, nutrient plans, overall maintenance, and emergency action plans, where appropriate. The assessment provides producers with a third party, neutral report that identifies specific areas where odor and environmental management could be improved.

Twenty-two North Dakota assessors (NDSU Extension, Natural Resource Conservation Service and private consultants) have been certified by NPPC to carry out these assessments. To date, nine operations have volunteered for the program. The assessment is provided free of charge and all information and observations are strictly confidential.