To: ARPAS Members
Subject: Opportunity to become an Assessor for a Significant On-Farm Voluntary Environmental Assessment Program: Help the industry and enhance your income opportunity.

PLEASE SHARE WITH OTHERS WHO MAY BE INTERESTED. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE!!

Greetings,

There is an opportunity for ARPAS members (present members and others who may wish to become members to participate in this opportunity) to become trained to be on-farm assessors for the "On-Farm Assessment and Environmental Review Program" being operated by Environmental Management Solutions (EMS), LLC. The program is being developed for all farm species. One may choose to participate in training to be an assessor in one or several species.

Once trained, EMS will match assessors with farms who request to participate in the program. One of several very attractive features of this particular program is that there is no cost to the farmer/producer. The costs, including fee to the assessor, will be paid with funds from special federal appropriations for the program. In addition, both EPA and the USDA-NRCS recognize the program.

Assessors usually work in teams of two, assigned by EMS. In cases where animal agriculture is a significant portion of the farm operation, teams will consist of at least one ARPAS member who has received the additional species-specific training from EMS and has been certified as an OFAER assessor. Typically and ARPAS member will be paid $750 per assessment plus expenses.

Any interested ARPAS member can participate in the training to become a certified assessor for the OFAER program. Certification is in three categories: swine, dairy/beef cattle, and poultry. To become a paid, certified assessor check out the Enclosed leaflet:

On Farm Assessment and Environmental Review Program
Opportunity for ARPAS Members

Several training opportunities are being developed for the very near future. Hopefully you and/or others you know might be able to clear your schedules to participate in one of the upcoming training sessions (listed below). This is an attractive opportunity to serve animal agriculture while providing income to you as an assessor.

To Register for the training the contact person is Lydia Rogers at Environmental Management Solutions #515-223-3538 or email at rogersl@EMSLLC.org
Inquiries can also be directed to Marj Ocheltree of EMS at (515) 223-3545, or email, <ocheltrm@EMSLLC.org>
The mailing address is: Marge Ocheltree EMS, LLC; P.O. Box 14586; Des Moines, IA 50306
UPCOMING SESSIONS:
(1) Poultry Assessor Training: October 1-4 and November 12-15. The training is being arranged by Arkansas Extension. The EMS organization suggests contacting Denise Veldhuizen at the EMS office or Susan Watkins Extension Specialist in Arkansas <swatkin@uark.edu>. If the training is not filled, EMS will ask that it be opened for other ARPAS members.

Here are the details:
This training is for POULTRY and will be held October 1-4, 2001 in Morrilton, AR and November 26-29 in Hope, AR. The training schedule for the four days is as follows, with lunch provided each day:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Morrilton</th>
<th>Hope</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Monday</td>
<td>October 1st</td>
<td>November 12</td>
<td>9:00am - 5pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Tuesday</td>
<td>October 2nd</td>
<td>November 13</td>
<td>8:00am - 5pm</td>
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<td>3. Wednesday</td>
<td>October 3rd</td>
<td>November 14</td>
<td>8:00am - 5pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Thursday</td>
<td>October 4th</td>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>7:30am - 5pm</td>
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Morrilton hotel options are: Days Inn- (501)-354-5101 and Super 8-(501)-354-8188.
Hope hotel options are: Holiday Inn Express, (870)-722-6262, Best Western (870)-777-9222, Quality Inn (870)-777-0777 or Super 8, (870) 777-8601.

The training consists of two days of general assessment classroom training, followed by a written one-hour exam. The third day is classroom training that is species specific for POULTRY. The fourth day is an instructor led full poultry assessment with participation from the trainees, followed by another 1 hour written exam on poultry. By completing this training program; passing a written test; and completing two site assessments with certified assessors, you can become certified to conduct ACWF-sponsored OFAER assessments. Those attending should allow for four full days of training and should not have had direct contact with livestock, particularly for 48 hours prior to arriving at the training.

(2) Beef & Dairy Assessor Training: Near Wooster, Ohio, October 22-25. Final details are being worked out and will be posted as soon as they are available. If this species area interests you and the dates might work, please contact EMS immediately to discuss participation and learn how to make the arrangements.

(3) There is interest in having additional training for the Dairy & Beef area, especially in the south. EMS would appreciate suggestions of locations for such training. Texas has been suggested. Let me know your suggestions (evp_arpas@assochq.org).

(4) An excellent program on Beef/Dairy was scheduled for Madison WI for August 27-30. We apologize for not having this information in time to get it announced to all ARPAS members.

What: OFAER Beef/Dairy Training
When: August 27-30, 2001
Where: Best Western East Towne Suites, 4801 Annamark Drive, Madison, WI 53704
Hotel #608-244-2020
On-Farm training at a nearby farm.

At the bottom of this e-mail please find additional information regarding the EMS Program.

If you or someone you know is interested, please contact both Lydia Rogers of EMS (see above) and me (so I can assist with communication and recruitment). Please contact either of us if you have questions.

IF YOU CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN THESE PARTICULAR TRAINING SESSIONS, BUT ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN A LATER TRAINING SESSION, PLEASE CONTACT BOTH Lydia Rogers and Bill Baumgardt. THERE WILL BE OTHER TRAINING SESSIONS THIS FALL since a significant number of producers have requested assessments this fall all across the US.

Sincerely,
Bill Baumgardt
Executive Vice President
Ph: Home office: 765-463-4249 (has voice mail)
Fax: 765-497-8115
E-mail: bbaum@gte.net

On Farm Assessment and Environmental Review Program
Opportunity for ARPAS Members

What is it?
The On Farm Assessment and Environmental Review (OFAER) program provides on farm environmental assessments to livestock producers to help the producers identify risk areas within their production system and suggests improvements.

Who’s Involved?
Environmental Management Solutions, EMS, administers the OFAER program. EMS is a management company which provides services and solutions to the agriculture industry. It is located in Des Moines, IA
America’s Clean Water Foundation, ACWF, funds the assessments. ACWF is a national nonprofit organization located in Washington DC. Its purpose is to serve as a forum to promote personal and community stewardship of water resources.

Livestock producers participate in the OFAER program on a voluntary basis. Any interested livestock producer completes a pre-assessment form called a Form A. After the form is completed the producer sends it to EMS and an assessment team of two certified assessors is provided to assess the farm.

The fourth group involved in the OFAER program is the certified assessors. Trained certified assessors provide the on-site assessment. The assessment process is completely confidential for the producer, it is comprehensive and it is free to the producer. The assessors look at five risk areas on the farm:

1. general site
2. buildings, sheds or lots
3. manure storage and handling
4. manure utilization
5. mortality management.

ARPAS Role?
Assessors usually work in teams of two, assigned by EMS. In cases where animal agriculture is a significant portion of the farm operation, teams will consist of at least one ARPAS member who has received the additional species-specific training from EMS and has been certified as an OFAER assessor. Any interested ARPAS member can become a certified assessor for the OFAER program. Certification is in three categories: swine, dairy/beef cattle, and poultry. To become a paid, certified assessor one must possess the following skills:

- Good verbal and written communication skills
- Knowledge of animal production in one or more of these areas: swine, beef, dairy, or poultry
- Some professional affiliation, advance education beyond high school, or 5 plus years experience in environmental or agriculture industry.

The qualifications required to become a certified assessor are:

- Participate in the two-day classroom training on the general assessment process
- Score 80% or better on the general written test
- Participate in the one-day species-specific classroom training
- Score 80% or better on the species written test
- Participate in two on-site assessments
- Write two on farm reports, one for each site visited.
Why Participate?
ARPAS members have the experience and knowledge the OFAER program is looking for in a certified assessor. In becoming a certified assessor an ARPAS member will:

- be involved in a cutting-edge environmental program
- direct one-on-one educational contact with livestock producers
- have an opportunity to use your professional expertise to educate producers
- be paid a fee and expenses for each assessment conducted.

More Information?
If you are interested in becoming a certified assessor for the OFAER program please contact EMS at 515-223-3538. A list of upcoming trainings will be provided. If you have any questions please contact EMS.

If you are an ARPAS member, or interested in becoming an ARPAS member in order to participate as a certified assessor in the OFAER program described above, please contact Bill Baumgardt (765-463-4249; E-mail: bbaum@gte.net).