

Session VIII: Meeting Potential 2017 Environmental Goals.

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Purpose: To identify associated challenges for meeting potential 2017 environmental goals and to give participants some ideas for possible incentives to assist in attaining goals.

Scenario #2

Year: 2017

Mandated reductions in nutrient losses from livestock were phased in over a 5-year period (2007 – 2012). In the following five years (2012-2017), an incentive program was introduced to encourage even greater emissions reductions. This program requires that producers document change starting in year 2012. Baseline emissions were set in 2012 and the goal was for a 5% decrease from baseline yearly, for all species and all regulated emissions (N, P, VOCs, ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, methane, PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀), for a total of a 25% decrease vs. baseline on the 5th year (2017).

The incentive program was a success, with more than 50% of producers establishing an effective measurement and documentation program by year 3 (2015) and meeting the 5% annual decrease vs. the 2012 baseline. Compliance increased yearly and by 2017 the incentive program has accomplished an unprecedented level of adoption (80%) that is able to be documented and verified.

The decreases were achieved without greater producer attrition than had been normal prior to the setting of these goals. No loss of productive capacity within any specific region or within the US has been seen.

How were reductions achieved?

What sort of measurements and documentation allows for accurate follow-up on each of the targeted emissions?

What incentives could have resulted in such high adoption?