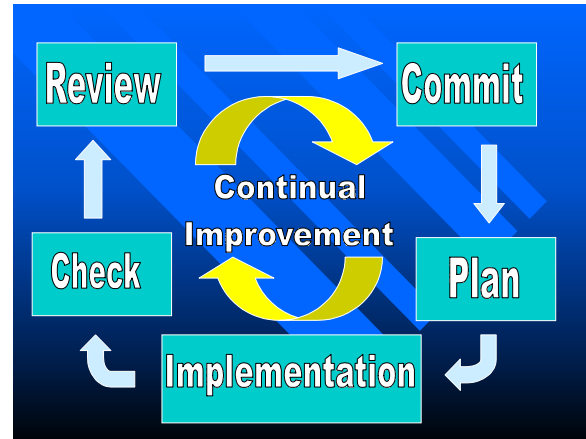




- **Implementation:** the owner/operator follows through with the plan by establishing responsibilities, training, communication, documentation, operating procedures, and an emergency plan to ensure that environmental targets are met.
- **Check:** the owner/operator monitors the operation to evaluate whether the targets are being met, and if not, takes corrective action.
- **Review:** the EMS is modified to optimize its effectiveness. The review stage creates a loop of continuous improvement for the operation.

The advantage of adopting the **EMS** is that it enables you to consider and plan for managing the environmental risk of your operation's products, processes and services. Many methods and tools have been developed that will help you to compare alternatives to identify the least cost, best performing and lowest environmental impact options. The **EMS** approach will help you do the following:



- practice pollution prevention,
- use resources efficiently,
- avoid shifting problems from one waste stream to another,
- understand the risks associated with using both regulated and unregulated chemicals,
- integrate management of worker safety and health requirements with management of environmental concerns,
- practice extended product and process responsibility, and
- manage system change in addressing environmental concerns.

Thus, by adopting this approach, you can develop an **EMS** that helps you continuously identify and reduce risk to people and the environment. By focusing on reducing risk and more effective resource use, improvements in environmental performance will be built into your **EMS**.

**USU Extension's AEMS** program provides methods and tools to help agriculture operators consider risk reduction when answering the following questions:

- How does your operation **impact the environment**?
- Which **environmental impacts** are **significant**?
- How can your operation improve its **environmental performance**?

**If you have comments or want to know more about the AEMS program, please contact John D. Harrison at [jd@cc.usu.edu](mailto:jd@cc.usu.edu) or (435) 797-3396.**

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