



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

EcoNewsWire

Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Iowa companies team with Pollution Prevention Intern Program to boost profits, improve environmental performance

**MEDIA CONTACT: Danielle Dilks, DNR, at 515-725-8363
or Danielle.Dilks@dnr.iowa.gov.**

DES MOINES – Eleven businesses will participate in DNR’s 2018 Pollution Prevention (P2) Intern Program. Upper-level college and university students work on-site at Iowa companies for 12- or 24-week paid internships to research solutions and implement pollution prevention strategies that will increase efficiency, reduce costs and help meet companies’ environmental goals.

Since 2001, more than 180 Iowa companies, hospitals, universities and government agencies have participated in the unique program, accumulating more than \$87.9 million in savings as a result of using resources more efficiently and improving environmental performance.

Environmental benefits achieved include the reduction of:

- 4.87 billion gallons of water;
- 238,800 tons of solid waste;
- 8,646 tons of hazardous waste;
- 392.4 million kilowatt hours of electricity;
- 11.5 million therms of energy.

Companies participating in the 2018 program (listed alphabetically by town):

Ames: Hach

Charles City: Cambrex

Charles City: Zoetis

Decorah: Stanley Engineered Fastening

Harlan: Monogram Processed Meats

Marshalltown: JBS USA, LLC

Mason City: Smithfield Mason City

Ottumwa: JBS Swift Pork

Sioux City: Smithfield Packaged Meats Corp.

Wever: Iowa Fertilizer Company

Woodward: Woodward Resource Center

Funding for the P2 Intern Program includes federal grants, portions of solid waste tonnage fees and cost share contributed by the host companies.

Pollution Prevention Services also provides confidential, non-regulatory, environmental technical assistance in the form of assessments, Environmental Management Systems development assistance, workshops, and access to the P2 Resource Library. These services are offered at no-cost to help companies reduce expenses through source-reduction strategies to improve process efficiency and reduce or eliminate waste.

For more information on the Pollution Prevention Intern Program and a list of 2018 projects, visit: www.iowap2interns.com. Case summaries of the 2018 projects will be posted to this site in the fall.

Hearings will discuss two new general permits covering discharges of wastewater

MEDIA CONTACT: Wendy Hieb at (515) 725-8405 or wendy.hieb@dnr.iowa.gov.

DES MOINES—The DNR is seeking public comment on proposed rules that will create two new general permits. The permits cover a variety of wastewater discharges to Iowa soils and streams.

The DNR will hold three public hearings across the state in March. DNR will present the latest information about proposed new requirements and take comments orally or in writing.

DNR plans to issue two new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permits known as General Permit #8 (GP8) and General Permit #9 (GP9). GP8 allows for discharges of hydrostatic test water (water used to test the integrity of a pipe or tank), underground storage tank ballast water (water used to weight a tank to facilitate underground installation), and water associated with installation, repair, and replacement of potable water lines. GP9 allows for discharges from dewatering associated with construction and small residential geothermal heating and cooling systems.

The DNR is proposing to include eligibility criteria and Best Management Practices. These will ensure that discharges will comply with water quality standards. Most permittees will be automatically authorized to discharge. Only a few higher-risk dischargers will need to submit a Notice of Intent. There is no fee for GP8 or GP9.

The public is invited to attend the hearings:

1. Wednesday, Mar. 7, 4 p.m. at the Coralville Public Library, 1401 Fifth St., Coralville.
2. Thursday, Mar. 8, 4 p.m. at the Harlan Public Library, 718 Court St., Harlan.
3. Wednesday, Mar. 14, 4 p.m. at the Urbandale Public Library, 3520 86th St., Urbandale.

People may also file written comments on the proposed rulemaking on or before midnight on March 19. Written comments or questions regarding the proposed rulemaking should be directed to Wendy Hieb, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, NPDES Section, 502 E. Ninth St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309-0034; via fax at 515-725-8202; or via email at wendy.hieb@dnr.iowa.gov.

More information can be found on the DNR's website at: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water-Quality/NPDES-Wastewater-Permitting/NPDES-General-Permits>.

Learn how to file manure management plans online

MEDIA CONTACT: Karen Grimes at 515-725-8279 or Karen.Grimes@dnr.iowa.gov or Ted Petersen at 515-725-0268 or Ted.Petersen@dnr.iowa.gov.

DES MOINES—Some 7,000 poultry and livestock producers who must file a manure management plan can now file their MMP electronically three years out of four.

Producers can learn how to “Save Money and Time—File your MMP Online,” at a 1 p.m., Feb. 28 webinar. Pre-register now on the DNR's [eMMP webpage](#).

DNR staff will discuss the benefits of online filing (including filing and paying fees from home, office or smart phone), creating a login ID, submitting the plan, paying fees and assigning rights to their consultants. Farmers and their consultants can file and pay fees for multiple plans at one time.

“One of the big benefits is eliminating the drive to county offices to get a signature in each county where manure will be applied,” said Ted Petersen, DNR supervisor. “If everyone uses the eMMP, DNR estimates the online solution will save driving at least 178,000 miles per year.”

Short webinar segments will cover how county staff and the public can use the eMMP application.

Filing online frees up county staff from signing plans, signing plan corrections and storing paper forms. Instead, counties will receive emailed notices when plans are completed.

Producers who prefer paper forms will still have that option.

Manure management plans are required of animal confinement (totally roofed) facilities with more than 500 animal units or 1,250 finishing hogs. The MMP records the planned amount of manure to be land applied based on nitrogen and phosphorus needs of upcoming crops.

Iowa DNR endorses Healthy Heart Month

MEDIA CONTACT: Karen Grimes at 515-725-8279 or Karen.Grimes@dnr.iowa.gov.

DES MOINES—Healthy air quality plays a major part in preventing heart disease according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Fans of "This is Us," a popular primetime show, know smoke from a house fire led to main character "Jack's" deadly heart attack. Although this was a fictional account, it illustrates how high levels of air pollution can impact an otherwise healthy person.

“Helping people and their doctors become aware of the importance of clean air and how to reduce exposure to air pollutants is our goal as we join EPA during Heart Health Month,” said Catharine Fitzsimmons, chief of DNR’s air quality bureau.

“We want to help people realize air pollution can affect heart health, trigger heart attacks and strokes, and increase risks for vulnerable people, she added.

Fortunately, Iowa’s businesses have [significantly reduced air pollution](#) by 41 percent over the last 25 years, making Iowa one of the states that seldom has air pollution alerts.

Still the Iowa DNR recommends vulnerable people, including the elderly, the young and especially those with heart disease, check the [Air Quality Index](#) before exercising

outdoors or traveling to other parts of the U.S. The Air Quality Index shows air quality forecasts, using a color key to alert people of potentially unhealthy air quality.

Visit EPA's [Healthy Heart webpage](#) to learn more about how you can protect your heart. For the latest research, EPA and the National Environmental Health Association are offering a webinar [Healthy Heart: Air Pollution and Cardiovascular Health](#) on Feb. 28 at 11 a.m. CST.

“Because clean air is critical for the one in three American adults with heart or blood vessel disease we encourage Iowans to protect their hearts from air pollution and to inform their health professionals of air quality resources they can use,” Fitzsimmons added.

DNR enforcement actions

MEDIA CONTACT: Ed Tormey, DNR, at 515-725-8373 or Ed.Tormey@dnr.iowa.gov.

DES MOINES – DNR staff work with individuals, businesses and communities to help them protect our natural resources by complying with state and federal laws. This approach is very effective. In the few cases where compliance cannot be achieved, the DNR issues enforcement actions. The following list summarizes recent enforcement actions. Find the entire, original orders on DNR's website at www.iowadnr.gov/EnforcementActions

Consent Orders

A consent order is issued as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

Worth County

Steven Kalvig

Comply with all laws related to burning and disposal of solid wastes and pay \$5,000 penalty.

Administrative Orders

Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the order or 60 days to pay the penalty.

Polk County

Custom Cabinets of Iowa, Inc.

Submit 2016 Minor Source Emission Inventory to DNR and pay \$2,500 penalty.