

**LMA RECOMMENDS LIVESTOCK MARKET OPERATORS
APPLY FOR NO-COST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS**

Livestock marketing businesses, in 21 states west of the Mississippi are eligible to participate in a new project funded by the U. S. Environmental Protection Administration that provides **at no-cost** confidential technical assistance to producers and markets wishing to identify and address potential environmental /water quality issues at their operations. The CLEANmp-west project is open to livestock and poultry producers AND market operators in the designated states wishing to have an independent environmental assessment done of their operation and/or a nutrient management plan (NMP) developed in response to state and federal water quality requirements. Producers and market operators are eligible regardless of whether or not they are required as a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) to have a state or federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. All producer/market specific information generated from the assessment is kept confidential and cannot be used to impose NPDES requirements.

The project will target or give special attention to facilities near water bodies on the list of impaired waters however any legitimate animal feeding operation (markets) in the CLEANmp-west area can apply. Nearly four million will be made available for the comprehensive environmental assessments and NMPs in the eligible states.

Applications for a CLEANmp-west environmental assessment and/or NMP are available online via the Internet or the application can be downloaded and printed for submission to SES, Inc., a company located in Merriam, KS that LMA worked with in the past on market related environmental issues. The application form is currently unique to producers but can be used by livestock markets as well in applying for either an environmental assessment or an NMP. If applying, a market operator must be prepared to commit the time to complete the project application, accompany the technical assessment service provider on a tour of the market and provide appropriate operation-related information.

LMA urges livestock markets located near rivers, streams or in environmentally sensitive areas as well as those likely to be required to have a NPDES permit to consider applying for one of these no-cost environmental assessments and/or NMP as it is too good of a deal to pass up in addressing the very public environmental issues that are a part of any livestock business today. For more information on this project and to apply for an environmental assessment and/or a nutrient management plan, please go to the CLEANmp-west website at: www.cleanmp-west.org. Also, you can contact Nancy Robinson, LMA Vice President for Government and Industry Affairs, at 1-800-821-2048 to discuss your particular market facilities need for an environmental assessment and NMP.