



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education and Economics
Agricultural Research Service

February 1, 2012

Subject: Minutes of the Environmental Management System Committee Meeting
To: ARS Tifton Location Employees
From: Tamara Snipes, Chemist/EMS Coordinator

The EMS committee met on February 1, 2012 at 11:00 AM in the SEWRU large conference room. T. Snipes, R. Scarborough, P. Timper, T. Maze, R. Hornbuckle, and K. Marchant were the committee members in attendance.

Last October, the City of Tifton suspended the glass recycling program because of the inability to find a vendor for the glass. We stopped collecting glass for recycling in December 2011. In mid-January, we found out that the city recycling program was accepting glass again, but it had to be sorted by color. This should not create a problem with resuming glass recycling at the location as most of our glass for recycling is clear. New containers will be purchased and put in several buildings in order to collect brown glass. Any program that has a large amount of brown glass for recycling and needs a container should contact Tamara Snipes (ext.344).

The UGA safety committee organized a campus event for pesticide disposal on December 14, 2011. Russell Scarborough worked with UGA to incorporate our accumulated pesticide waste with their disposal. USDA was able to clean out nearly 700 lb of unwanted or expired pesticides. This completes one of the EMS goals set for FY12.

Tom Maze informed the committee that Georgia Power would be conducting an audit on February 6, 2012. The information gained from the audit will be used to possibly get T12 type lights replaced to the more energy efficient T8 model. The replacement program is being looked at by headquarters with other locations as well.

Tracking energy consumption of our federal facilities was also agreed upon as a goal for FY12.

The EMS newsletter, The Green Gazette, has been produced on a quarterly basis. The committee recommended changing to biannual production due to the time involved to find and research topics. P. Timper will begin researching topics for the next edition of the newsletter.

The next meeting of the Location EMS Committee will be tentatively scheduled for May 2012.

