

Pitching In to Reduce Piles

Team “Pitch Forks” Moves from Paper to Paperless—to create an online Manure Management Plan

Pre-planning with Stakeholders—Key to Success

Involved 105 people—representing those who prepare, receive and process plans

- farmers with large and medium operations
- consultants, technical service providers
- Iowa counties which receive and sign for the plans
- DNR staff

Participants engaged in 10 meetings and completed pre-work (including a survey). Along with the two facilitators' preparation, pre-planning totaled 480 hours. This work was invaluable to gather data and resources, and map out steps needed to reach consensus.

Goal: Simplify filing an annual manure management plan for 7,000 livestock and poultry producers, their consultants, 99 counties and DNR's six field offices.

Provide efficient, high quality service.

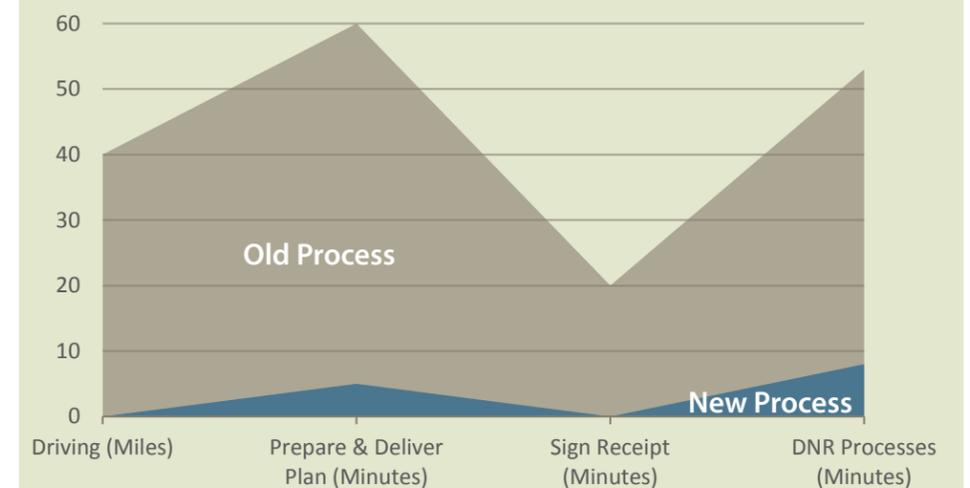
Continue to offer a paper process for those who want it.

Participants: those who create, submit and process about 7,000 plans annually.

Process: Lean Six Sigma, for projects needing new design, with emphasis on customer and organization needs.

Preplanning: the key to success. Stakeholders have diverse backgrounds with sometimes competing interests.

Results: Saving Steps, Time, Miles and Money *



* Estimates assume 100 percent participation and are based on preliminary projections.



Identify the Possible to achieve the doable. Extensive planning and preparation allowed a diverse group to find common ground. Despite the desire to offer online submittal of both long and short forms, the group offered an alternative, but realistic solution: focus on the online short forms to be used three out of four years.

This project's success creates a blueprint for future accomplishments. Coming soon: a project to address the long form, used one out of four years.



An online option will dramatically decrease miles producers and consultants drive each year—potentially by 175,000 to 280,000 miles.

The few farmers who submit incomplete plans will save more miles by not having to repeat the delivery process—taking plans to the county, obtaining a signature and delivering the signed plan to DNR more than once.

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New Benefits—Addressing obstacles, complaints and requests from stakeholders

1. Secure, streamlined and automated process
2. Reminds farmers of due dates
3. File from home, office or smart phone
4. Ensures quality data
5. Submit electronically to county, instead of hand delivery
6. Pay fees online
7. DNR sends online approval to submitter and county office
8. Saves time and effort—reduces trips, time and paper storage
9. Greener footprint