

PROJECT FACT SHEET

Project Title: Dairy Manure Export Support (DMES) Project

Project Lead: TSSWCB

Funding Source(s): Funding for the project is provided by the TSSWCB and the TCEQ through a [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) grant program.

Project Partner(s): [TIAER](#) / [TCEQ](#) / Compost Vendors

Project Description: TSSWCB initiated the DMES program to help solve the problem of elevated phosphorous levels in the North Bosque and Leon River Watersheds. The program offers financial incentives to support the transport of raw manure to commercial composting operations. TxDOT and municipalities, as well as agricultural producers and the general public are some of the target purchasers of the compost. The TCEQ, TSSWCB's partner in the program, provides rebates to these purchasers to facilitate the development of a sustainable market with the [Compost Manure Incentive Project \(CMIP\)](#). The export of the manure will help address concerns regarding potential nonpoint source water quality impacts associated with traditional land application.

Participation requirements for dairies include being located in the North Bosque and/or Leon River Watersheds. Dairies must have (or have applied for) a TSSWCB-certified Water Quality Management Plan or a TCEQ water quality permit and an approved nutrient utilization plan. Each composting facility must be compliant with all state regulations and be approved for participation in TCEQ's CMIP. Haulers must attend a workshop convened by TSSWCB's contractor and a vendor number from the Texas State Comptroller and authorize direct deposit.

Overall, the program is managed by TSSWCB, however, TSSWCB has contracted everyday activities to TIAER. In April-01, TIAER subcontracted many aspects of the program to the Foundation for Organic Resources Management (FORM), which was replaced by imanage, LLC in July-03. The program is managed at the local level through a program office located in Stephenville, TX. TSSWCB has contracted with TIAER to manage the program through August 31, 2004.

Potential Project Benefits: Removing manure from the watershed reduces the amount of nutrients that storm runoff may carry to the North Bosque River.

Current Project Status: The initial target amount of manure to be exported was 300,000 tons during a 36-month period from October 2000 to October 2003. The actual amount hauled exceeded 685,500 tons, or more than double the target amount. Nearly 450,000 tons were removed from the North Bosque Watershed. TSSWCB anticipates the DMES program will continue through August 2004 and possibly beyond.