

Project Overview

Industrial Assessment Intern: Kristin Bruffett

Major: Biological Engineering

School: University of Missouri – Columbia

Summer Projects

Based at the Nemaha County Extension office in Auburn, NE the projects included four new assessments of small businesses and industries in Southeastern Nebraska and two reassessments for Pfizer and Molex in Lincoln, Nebraska. Public education presentations at activities of the Extension office and writing pollution prevention articles for the newspaper were important aspects of the placement.



Waste Assessments

Three businesses were assessed, including a cabinet manufacturer, a pet food manufacturer, and a hospital. These waste assessments, although comprehensive, focused primarily on reducing electricity consumption, decreasing hazardous waste, increasing recycling efforts, and solid waste reduction. An optometrist's office was also assessed for water conservation in its lawn irrigation practices.

Education

The 2008 summer project included writing two articles for the Nemaha County Extension newsletter, *4-Clover News*, which is distributed to approximately 120 persons and writing one article for *The Carthage Press*, a newspaper in Carthage, Missouri, with a circulation of 3,000. Kristin also distributed pollution prevention information at the Nemaha County Fair and gave a public education presentation to approximately 20 people at the Rotary Club of Auburn, Nebraska.

Pollution Prevention Benefits and Results

Various pollution prevention opportunities were identified for the businesses assessed. These opportunities have the potential to save the businesses money by reducing water use, reducing solid waste and expanding recycling efforts. Pollution prevention opportunities were also identified to help prevent employees from being exposed to harmful chemicals. Combined results of the pollution prevention opportunities identified are presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Potential Annual P2 Benefits

Number of Assessments	Cost Savings	Water Reduced	Solid Waste Diverted from the Landfill	Hazardous Waste Eliminated	GHG Reduction
4	\$11,380	46,500 gal	32,231 lbs	52,000 lbs	16,500 lb CO ₂