

TOP TEN REASONS for UPDATING YOUR COUNTY AEM STRATEGY

(Check those that apply to your strategy)

- 1) Your Strategy is not providing the framework for effectively addressing agricultural concerns locally, particularly on a watershed basis.
- 2) Your Strategy is not resulting in more effective use of Farm Bill Conservation Programs in the county.
- 3) The outreach component of your strategy did not meet your needs in terms of getting farmers in your priority watersheds to participate in AEM. Also the farm community does not understand or does not support what you are trying to accomplish with AEM.
- 4) Partner agencies and organizations are not supporting and promoting your AEM efforts. You are also having problems completing your deliverables and you haven't engaged your partners to help.
- 5) Key stakeholders have not had input into your individual watershed strategies. Your watershed strategies also do not consider both groundwater and surface water concerns.
- 6) Your Strategy does not have a strong educational component to increase likelihood farmers will be making the needed management changes on their farms.
- 7) Your Strategy has not been presented to your county legislature to justify District funding for your agricultural / water quality programs.
- 8) Your District Board does not request periodic updates of progress being made in implementing your County AEM Strategic Plan.
- 9) Your Strategy does not address how the local agencies plan to work with the certified planners to help CAFOs implement their CNMPs so they can remain in compliance with their SPDES Permit. Your strategy also doesn't address other county agricultural resource concerns in addition to water quality such as: livestock odor, neighbor relations, lack of community support for agriculture etc.
- 10) Your AEM Tier 1 Data Management System does not include all farms where Tier 1 has been completed by the partner agencies and the compiled results are not used to prioritize farms and watershed needs.

Note: Review these top ten reasons for updating your strategy with your AEM local working group and your soil & water conservation district board. If you checked any of the above reasons you should consider updating your strategy. Those items checked are the areas where you should focus your update efforts.