

February 2020 Spotlight



Environmental Health A Systems Approach to Excellence

Today's Presentation

- Environmental Health Division Overview
- A Systems Approach to Training & Service
- Update on February 2019 Cow Mortalities
- Questions



EH Overview

EH Programs

- **Food**- EH regulates approximately 1,000 food establishments in Yakima County.
- **On-Site Sewage**- Process approximately 300 OSS permits a year.
- **Drinking Water**- Conduct well site inspections, sanitary surveys of community wells, Group B community well plan reviews, well drilling inspections.
- **Solid Waste**- Permit and inspect 12 solid waste facilities.
- **Vector**- Rabies prevention and mosquito control.
- **Camps, Water Recreation**- Inspections of youth camps, and approximately 80 pools & spas.

EH Overview

Other EH Services

- **EH Help Desk**- Helps clients who come into the office, call in, or email us with questions.
- **Education & Outreach**- Provide educational materials to clients and stakeholders regarding rule revisions, preventing illness outbreaks, how to remain code compliant.
- **Land Use**- Provide land use comments to Yakima County Public Services.

A Systems Approach

- **Generalists vs. Specialists**
- **Dedicated to keeping our processes as simple as possible.**
- **Streamline our ability to help clients (EH Help Desk Technician).**
- **Policy and procedure development.**
- **New staff training (and cross training).**
- **Continued education and certifications of EH staff.**
- **Building Partnerships to improve services.**



The Result

- **Achieving our strategic goals**
 - Deliver Mandated Services
 - Develop a Network of Community Partners Invested in Improving Public Health
 - Increase Effectiveness and Efficiency of District Services
- **Consistent with our education and decision making.**
- **Our efforts and processes are uniform amongst staff.**
- **Builds a knowledgeable and qualified workforce.**
- **Leads to less confusion with clients and stakeholders.**



Update: Cow Mortalities

- February 2019– Severe storm hit Yakima County causing the death of approximately 2,500 cows.
- About 1,500 cows were hauled to a landfill, and about 1,000 cows were put into compost piles.
- Over the course of the last year YHD has been working in a support role with WSDA and Dept. of Ecology.
- Close temperature monitoring and removal of any leachate.
- Doing our part in ensuring the health and safety of the public.
- Last inspection in early February shows compost is nearly complete.

Thank You

Questions?

