

Feed Management

A CSP On-Farm Pilot Project

What is Feed Management?– It is the management of the quantity of available nutrients fed to livestock and poultry for maintenance, production, growth, performance, animal health and reproduction; while reducing the quantity of nutrients, especially nitrogen and phosphorus, excreted in manure by minimizing the over-feeding of these and other nutrients.

Feed Management could also help improve the net farm income since nutrients will be fed more efficiently.

This Pilot Project

is a Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) enhancement and consists of the planning monitoring and publicizing of the results obtained.

The project will last three years and requires the implementation of a feeding management plan. The producer will conduct three events to publicize the project to other producers.

Start Date

The pilot project needs to be scheduled to start within the first three years of the CSP contract.

Participant Share

The participant is responsible for all aspects of implementation of the project.

Dairy, beef, chicken, turkey and other animal farms can benefit from implementing a feed management plan.

In Pennsylvania NRCS certified Technical Service Providers (TSP) are available to develop the plans.



Feed Management Plans and Specifications

Plans and specifications for feed management shall meet the requirements of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Feed Management standard (Practice Code 592). They shall describe the specific feed management practices and/or technologies that are planned for the operation.

The following components shall be included in the feed management plan:

- The type of technology, or technologies, and/or feeding practices that will be used on the operation.
- Feed analyses and ration formulation information prior to and after implementation of feed management on the operation.
- The estimated, or measured, nutrient content of the manure prior to the implementation of feed management on the operation.
- The estimated impact that feed management will have on manure nutrient content.
- Guidance for how often the feed management plan shall be reviewed and potentially revised.
- The quantities and sources of nitrogen and phosphorus that will be fed.
- Identification of the qualified feed management specialist who developed the plan.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The producer/client is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the feed management plan. Operation and maintenance activities address the following:

- Periodic plan review to determine if adjustments or modifications are needed.
- Routine feed analysis to document the rates at which nitrogen and phosphorus were actually fed. When actual rates fed differ from or exceed the planned rates, records will indicate the reasons for the differences.
- Routine fresh manure analysis shall document the rates at which nitrogen and phosphorus were fed to livestock through supplemental feeds and forage consumption while grazing pastures. Tracking manure analysis and stocking rates of animals will document differences in nutrients when supplemental feeding rates are adjusted.
- Maintaining records to document plan implementation. As applicable, records include:
 - ◆ Records of feed analysis and ration formulation, including the record of ration formulation used prior to implementing the feeding strategy.
 - ◆ Records of the initial estimate of the impact the feeding strategy was expected to have on reducing manure nutrient content.
 - ◆ Records of any manure analysis that was done after the feeding strategy was implemented to determine manure nutrient content.
 - ◆ Dates of review and person performing the review, and any recommendations that resulted from the review.

Records of plan implementation shall be maintained for five years, or for a period longer than five years if required by other Federal, state, or local ordinances, program, or contract requirements.

For assistance on how to implement the practice contact your county USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service office.