United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2011 Ranking Period 1

Water Quality Enhancement Activity – WQL15 – Reduce the concentration of nutrients on farm by limiting the amount of feed and fertilizer brought on livestock farms

Enhancement Description
Grow at least 75% of feed for livestock on the farm and use manure from the livestock to supply at least 50% of N, 90% of P and 90% K for crops grown on the farm.

Land Use Applicability
Cropland and pastureland.

Benefits
On livestock farms, when feed for livestock is brought on to the farm and manure from the livestock is spread on the farm, over time this can result in a buildup of nutrients on the farm. This problem is made worse if the nutrient value of the manure is not accounted for and additional fertilizer is applied to crops. By growing the majority of feed for livestock on the farm and properly accounting for the nutrients in the manure when applying it to crop land, better nutrient cycling is achieved. Nutrients are not concentrated on the farm and a more sustainable operation is possible.

Criteria

1. At least 75% of feed for livestock must be grown on the farm.
2. For crops grown on the farm, manure from the livestock must supply at least:
    a. 50% of N
    b. 90% of P
    c. 90% of K

Documentation Requirements

1. Documentation of total feed requirements for livestock
2. Documentation of feed purchases from off farm.
3. Documentation of nutrient requirements for crops.
4. Documentation of off farm nutrient purchase.

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Document annual nutrient balance calculations for the farm operation, address all sources of nutrients generated on the farm and an inventory of all nutrients brought to the farm operation from off farm sources.