



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

## Water Quality Enhancement Activity – WQL15 – Reduce the Concentration of Nutrients on Farm by Limiting the Amount of Feed and Fertilizer Brought on Livestock Farms



### Reduce the Concentration of Nutrients on Livestock Farms

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

This enhancement is applicable on cropland and pasture land.

### 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

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

### Documentation Requirements

- Documentation of total feed requirements for livestock.
- Documentation of feed purchases from off farm.
- Documentation of nutrient requirements for crops.
- Documentation of off farm nutrient purchase.

