

## Guidance Documents

### Resource Management System Guide Sheet

For: **FARMSTEADS**

**STATE:** Montana  
**Date:** April 2006

**RESOURCE SETTING:** This guidance document addresses all farmsteads within Montana. Specific situations may vary from one section of Montana to another. Each farmstead may have different needs depending upon location, type of farming operation, associated agricultural facilities adjacent to the farmstead plus other factors. However, there are some common factors which need to be addressed on each farmstead to assure sustained resource quality.

**IDENTIFIED PROBLEMS:** There are two primary areas of concern addressed in this guidance document. The first area of concern is the elimination of contamination hazards of farmstead water supply. The second area of concern deals with energy conservation of the farmstead area.

**ESSENTIAL PRACTICES:** The process to determine the essential practices will be based upon the Farm\*A\*Syst model developed jointly by NRCS, USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service and the Environmental Protection Agency as modified by the Montana Extension Service, Montana State University. On an individual farmstead, the Montana Farm\*A\*Syst model will be used to assess all factors which pertain to the farmstead. Each potential pollution source will be rated as one of four hazard categories; low, moderate, high or very high. The essential practices will be those practices needed to reduce the hazard from each potential pollution source to low.

The second problem is a waste of energy resources from the farmstead area due to a lack of protection from wind, sun, drifting of snow and other environmental influences which could be moderated through the use of windbreaks, shelterbelts and living snow fences.

#### RMS OPTIONS:

##### RMS #1 Practices

The practices in this RMS are those which will reduce to low those hazards which could impair or pollute the farmstead water supply. The practices may include 393–Filter Strip; 342–Critical Area Planting; 362–Diversion; 590–Nutrient Management; 595–Pest Management; 558–Roof Runoff Structure; 570–Runoff Management System; and any practices which may be part of a waste management system.

##### RMS #2 Practices

This RMS includes RMS #1 plus practices which will provide environmental protection to the farmstead and associated facilities. Optional practices include:

386	Field Border	Intercept water borne pollutants
394	Firebreak	Protection from wildfire
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment	Planting trees and shrubs
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	Establishing farmstead windbreaks (includes living snow fence)
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Managing farmstead for upland and neo-tropical wildlife

EXAMPLE RMS GUIDE SHEET—To be discarded after local guide sheet is developed.