Feed Management Plan
Practice/Activity Code (108) (No.)

1. Definition

A feed management plan is a farm specific documented plan developed for a client who addresses manipulation and control of the quantity and quality of available nutrients, feedstuffs, and/or additives fed to livestock and poultry. These plans are developed in collaboration with the producer and are designed to assist with the management and balance of nutrients from homegrown sources of forages and grains as well as other purchased feeds and supplements from off the farm. A Feed Management Plan often compliments a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan and can be an important tool for meeting NRCS Practice Standard 590-Nutrient Management on livestock farms by reducing the amount of nitrogen and/or phosphorus in the manure or by reducing odors.

A feed management plan will:

A. As a minimum, meet NRCS quality criteria for domestic animals and air quality.
B. Be developed in accordance with technical requirements of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) and policy requirements of General Manual, Title 190, Part 405, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans
C. Comply with federal, state, tribal, and local laws, regulations and permit requirements; and
D. Meet the client's objectives.

2. Feed Management Plan Technical Criteria

This section establishes the minimum criteria to be addressed in the development of Feed Management Plans.

A. General Criteria
The Feed Management Plan must be developed by a Technical Service Provider (TSP) that is certified to plan and develop a Feed Management Conservation Activity Plan (CAP). In accordance with Section 1240(A), the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) program provides funding support through contracts with eligible producers to obtain services of certified TSPs for development of Feed Management Plans. The specific TSP criteria required for Feed Management Plan development is located on the TSP website:
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/technical/tsp.

B. Background and Site Information
1. Name of owner/operator

2. Farm location and mailing address
3. Aerial map of the farmstead, with road names, buildings, and feed storage structures identified.
4. Kind and number of livestock

C. Identify Client Objectives such as:
1. Meet, but not exceed, livestock nutritional needs
2. Reduce nutrient purchases
3. Increase homegrown forage or grain use on farm
4. Improve forage yield, quality
5. Improve profitability
6. Maintain or improve water and/or air quality
7. Others as appropriate

D. Existing Conditions
1. Number of animals on the farm by group (calves, heifers, milking cows, dry cows)
2. Description of housing and feeding systems
3. Ration parameters of the groups the plan is being written for
4. Description of equipment and technologies used for feeding
5. Forage inventory and nutrient analyses
6. Ration nutrient analyses for the groups of animals the plan is being written for
7. Table showing N and P nutrient requirements and the current ration N and P nutrient levels, the predicted or measured manure N and P nutrient excretion, and the level of reductions targeted
8. All resource concerns identified and quantified based on the analysis of existing feeding system conditions.

E. Desired Future Conditions
1. Identify/list the records required in order to meet future implementation of Feed Management
2. A schedule of forage analysis, benchmarking, the planned ration reformulations, and plan updates
3. Operation and maintenance for feed management

F. Document the following Feed Management Plan Components:
1. Recommended changes to the ration
2. Forage management recommendations
3. Feed mixing and delivery systems recommendations
4. Predicted manure nutrient reduction amount
5. Sampling procedures for forages and/or manure
6. Resource concerns addressed by the plan

7. Contingency plans for lack of adequate forage, equipment breakdown, weather extremes, etc.

3. Deliverables for the Client – a hardcopy of the plan that includes:

- Cover page – name, address, phone of client and TSP; Total number of animals the plan address, signature blocks for the TSP, producer, and a signature block for the NRCS acceptance.
- Farmstead map with feed storage and animal housing identifying information
- Current feed assessment results as to nutrition levels and nitrogen and phosphorus excreted and potential for odor.
- Complete hardcopy of the client's plan (MSWord copy). Document the planned feed changes and feed management showing both feeding and forage recommendations, and the planned timeframe of implementation.

4. Deliverables for NRCS Field Office:

- Notification from the TSP to NRCS for a preplan meeting with the producer. The role of NRCS in this meeting will be for guidance for both parties to make sure that proper information on USDA and NRCS policy, and both technical and financial assistance, are presented and understood. Through this NRCS will be sure that the proper product is being delivered both to the producer, and to NRCS.
- Notification from the TSP to NRCS for a plan wrap-up meeting with the producer. The role of NRCS in this meeting will be to verify that all products specified in the contract have been delivered by the TSP to the producer.
- Complete hardcopy and electronic copy of the client's plan (MsWord copy) and other supporting documents.
- Digital farmstead map with feed storage and animal housing identifying information.