

What is a Farm Plan

This factsheet is one of a series developed for livestock owners with small farms. Each factsheet focuses on an area of management that will benefit the health of your animals, as well as the health of your property's natural resources.



BMP Factsheet

Fall 2008

A farm plan is a document developed by your Conservation District and you, the farmer or landowner.

The plan contains inventory and resource information and outlines a series of actions developed to meet a farmer's goals while protecting water quality and natural resources. Some of the things considered in a farm plan include:

- farm size
- soil types
- slope of the land
- proximity to streams or water bodies
- type of livestock or crops
- farmer's goals
- available resources (machinery, time, money)

You don't have to be a commercial operation to have a farm plan developed for you. The Whatcom Conservation District (WCD) works with farms of all sizes, from backyard horse owners to dairy and beef operations!

First, the Conservation District will address potential water quality concerns by suggesting changes that can be made.

Possible examples include streamside fencing, gutters and downspouts and manure management techniques. Then the Conservation District will look at other changes that can be made to improve farm productivity and reduce the impact on natural resources.

Some examples include:

- pasture management,
- weed control techniques,
- heavy use area protection

Best Management Practice (BMP) Factsheets

Livestock Confinement	Composting
Reducing Mud	Pasture Management
Roof Runoff Structures	Fencing-Types and Costs
Filter Strips and Buffers	Farm Plan
Manure Storage	Wetlands



The suggestions made by the Conservation District are reviewed by the farmer or landowner.

Together WCD staff and the landowner develop a plan and a proposed schedule for accomplishing the changes they decide on. The farmer may decide to act on some of the changes in the first year and others over a number of years. Once the farmer and the Conservation District have made their decisions, a tentative implementation schedule is set and their plans are recorded. One copy is kept with the farmer and one is kept on record with the Conservation District. Revisions of the plan can be made as the goals and needs of the farmer change.

All services provided by the WCD are FREE and without obligation.

Whatcom Conservation District is charged with the duties of protecting the soil and water of the County, particularly as it relates to farming and animal keeping practices, through technical assistance and education.

For more information please go to www.whatcomcd.org or call 360-354-2035 x3.

Mission of Whatcom Conservation District

"To serve present and future generations of Whatcom County through a natural resource conservation program of leadership, partnership, and technical, educational, and financial assistance to foster a healthy, sustainable relationship between people and the environment."