



Cooperative Extension

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## New Jersey Equine Farmer Survey: *Is my farm environmentally friendly?*

### A. Grazing and Pasture Management

1. YES  NO  NA

Are your animals fenced at least 30 feet from ALL sensitive water features such as: well heads, creeks, streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands?

The vegetated area between animals and water is called a buffer strip. Steeper slopes need wider strips. All buffer or filter strips should have permanent vegetative cover. Livestock should also be kept off septic systems to prevent compaction and damage to the system.

2. YES  NO  NA

Is your buffer strip maintained in vegetative cover like tall grass, not weeds? Trees and shrubs along surface water are encouraged. If you have no water on or within 100 feet of property lines check yes.

3. YES  NO  NA

Do you use fences, crossings, and limited access points to control animal access to state waters? Or if you have no water on or within 100 feet of property lines please check yes.

4. YES  NO  NA

Do you rotate your pastures?

5. YES  NO

If you answered yes to number 4, do you use a sacrifice or exercise area to control access and maintain pasture quality?

### B. Manure Storage

6. YES  NO

Is your animal manure stored at least 100 feet from waters of the state?

7. YES  NO

Is the manure stored on a concrete pad or compact clay, or removed and disposed regularly (monthly)?

### C. Nutrient Management

8. YES  NO  NA  (no manure applied)

Do you take regular soil tests on your farm to ensure that fertilizers or manures are applied only to meet crop requirements (e.g. soil tests results are within Rutgers University guidelines)?

9. YES  NO

Do you follow a manure management plan?

10. YES  NO  NA   
Is manure spread on land that has slight or moderate slopes (<8%), and is at least 100 feet from sensitive waters?

11. YES  NO  NA   
Is manure spread only during the growing season and not on frozen soils?

#### **D. Clean Water**

12. YES  NO   
Is clean water from rooftops or surrounding areas directed away from the manure storage, animal lots, and bare ground?

13. YES  NO   
Is storm water from your property managed so it is not contaminated by manure? This helps recharge our ground water.

14. YES  NO   
Do you manage barnyard runoff and wash stall wastewater to prevent contact with stormwater and or other water sensitive areas?

#### **E. Erosion control**

15. YES  NO  NA   
Are gullies on your property stabilized and soil erosion controlled? If no gullies check yes.

16. YES  NO   
Is the amount of bare soil on the property minimized, through pasture seeding and management?

17. YES  NO   
Is the runoff from bare and paved areas (e.g., arenas, driveways and parking lots) filtered through a vegetative buffer strip?

18. Check all of the management practices in use on your farm.

- Buffers or borders around the fields
- Vegetative filters to prevent runoff into open bodies of water
- Drag pastures to break up manure clumps
- Terraces to limit erosion
- Soil testing every three years
- Use of winter cover crops to prevent erosion

#### **F. Feed Management**

19. YES  NO   
Do you have feed bunks, mangers, hay feeders or other feeding areas that minimize feed (including hay) contact with the ground and stormwater contamination?

20. YES  NO   
Do you monitor the feed intake of your animals to prevent over consumption and minimize waste?

21. YES  NO   
Do you balance diets to minimize overfeeding (in addition to underfeeding) nutrients?

22. What is the best description of how you feed your animals?

- Try to balance diets, with forages and concentrates
- Get advice from my feed store
- Get advice from Extension
- Use the services of a consulting nutritionist

23. YES  NO   
Do you have an Animal Waste Management Plan (AWMP) for your farm?

This survey is meant to give you a relative idea of your farm's environmental impact. It is not meant to be a score of your overall management. This self-assessment will be used in determining your farm's eligibility for the Environmental Stewardship program sponsored by Rutgers University and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

### **New Jersey Animal Waste Requirements**

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture has adopted Animal Waste Management Regulations, requiring all livestock owners to proactively address and manage non-point source pollution originating from livestock operations. This includes those farms with horses, dairy cows, cattle, swine, goats, sheep, poultry and all other domesticated species.

The regulations were written to prevent water and other environmental pollution. All livestock farmers are required to:

1. Store manure at least 100 feet away from waters of the state.
2. Control access of animals in confined areas to waters of the state.

All farms with eight or more animal units (1 unit = 1000 pounds) must implement an animal waste management plan (AWMP). For more information please see the resources at <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/animal-waste-management/>

Rutgers Cooperative Extension is available to assist farm owners and managers with questions related to animal waste management. Please contact your local Extension agent; he/she will be able to assist you and refer you to needed resources.

### **Reference and adapted from:**

Gilkerson, B. 2006. Is my barn eco-friendly? University of Minnesota Extension Service, Hennepin County. <http://www.extension.umn.edu/extensionnews/2005/ecofriendlybarn.html>