

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

Winter 2015

A farm plan is a document assessing site specific aspects of a property and outlining best management practices (BMPs) identified as necessary to avoid potential negative environmental impacts.

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

- Acreage
- Soil types
- Proximity to streams or water bodies
- Type of livestock or crops
- Your goals
- Available resources (machinery, time, money)

After a free confidential assessment of your property, 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

Best Management Practice (BMP) Factsheets

What is a Farm Plan
Livestock Confinement
Reducing Mud
Filter Strips

Small Farm Resources
Composting
Pasture Management
Wetlands



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

Together Whatcom Conservation District (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 WCD 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. The WCD works with farms of all sizes, from backyard horse owners to dairy and beef operations!