

Fall 2014

Land Management Practice

Precision Feeding

Developed by: Virginia Ishler and Rebecca Nissley

Conewago Creek Initiative Partners:

Dauphin, Lancaster, and Lebanon County Conservation Districts

Tri-County Conewago Creek Association

South Londonderry Township

Elizabethtown College

Penn State

PA Department of Environmental Protection

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

PA Fish and Boat Commission

National & PA Natural Resources Conservation Service

PA Department of Agriculture

US Department of Agriculture

US Geological Service

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Susquehanna River Basin Commission

Environmental Protection Agency

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Environmental Credit Corp.

ZedX Corp.

American Farmland Trust

Capital Area RC&D

LandStudies, Inc.

Wild Resources, Inc.

Managing the quantity and forms of nitrogen and phosphorous fed to livestock and poultry can minimize the amount of those excreted in manure and the loss to the environment. Precision feeding addresses both how the ration is formulated and implemented on the farm. Properly balanced feeding programs based on confirmed nutrient analyses of feed, forages, and byproducts allow for the best use of available nutrients.

Benefits of Precision Feeding

Research conducted at Universities and onfarm has shown precision feeding to be effective economically and environmentally. Promoting this practice when nutrient management plans are being developed should be considered. Precision feeding of livestock and poultry can improve feed intake and nitrogen efficiencies, which can improve profitability and minimize manure volume and excreted nutrients.

In addition to improved water and air quality, precision feeding has the potential to:

- Improve milk yields in dairy cattle.
- Reduce odor-causing agents in swine manure.
- Increase bird performance and diet utilization.
- Improve income over feed costs.
- Reduce acreage for manure application to meet nutrient balance, thus reducing manure shipping and/or storage costs.

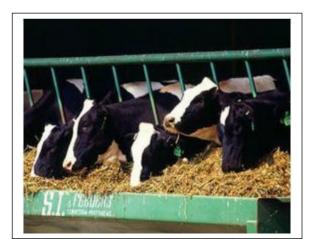
Web Resources

Dairy Cattle Nutrition
Nutrient and Feed Management
Hoard's Dairyman Webinar
Poultry Nutrition and Water Quality
Swine Nutrition

Interested in implementing this practice? Contact:

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Mike Hubler, DCCD (717) 921-8100, mhubler@dauphinc.org



Programs

USDA NRCS

USDA NRCS administers the Feed Management Practice. Financial assistance may be available through the Environment Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to assist producers in implementing feed management plans for dairy and beef cattle. The Conewago creek is one of USDA's "Showcase Watersheds" meaning the watershed is targeted for resources and funding.

319 Funding

Farms in priority areas of the watershed may also be eligible for funding through the County Conservation Districts' 319 funding.

PENN<u>STATE</u>

