



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

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Livestock owners need to be aware of their effect on our environment and natural resources. Regardless of the kind of livestock you have, proper management of animal and land resources are important to limit potential impact on natural resources. Take this quiz to determine how eco-friendly your livestock operation is.

### A. Grazing and Pasture Management (\*add 3 points for each "yes" answer)

1. Yes  No   
Are your animals fenced at least 30 feet from ALL sensitive water features such as: well heads, creeks, streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands?

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

2. Yes  No   
Is your buffer strip maintained in good vegetative cover like tall grass, not weeds?

Trees and shrubs along surface water are encouraged.

3. Yes  No   
Do you use fences, crossings, and limited access points to control animal access to sensitive waters?

4. Yes  No   
Do you drag or harrow manure in your permanent pastures?

### B. Manure Storage (\*add 3 points for each "yes" answer)

5. Yes  No   
Is your animal manure stored at least 100 feet from sensitive water features?

6. Yes  No   
Is the manure stored on a concrete pad or compact clay, or removed and disposed regularly (monthly)?

### C. Nutrient Management (\*add 3 points for each "yes" answer)

7. Yes  No   
Is manure applied on soils in such a manner to prevent phosphorus levels from getting too high (e.g. soil tests results are within Rutgers University guidelines)?

8. Yes  No   
Do you follow a formal manure management plan?

9. Yes  No   
Is manure spread on land that has slight or moderate slopes (<8%) and is at least 100 feet from sensitive waters?

10. Yes  No   
Is manure spread only during the growing season and not on frozen soils?

**D. Clean Water**  
(\*add 2 points for each “yes” answer)

11. Yes  No   
Is clean water from the barn roof or surrounding area directed away from the manure storage, animal lots, and bare soil?

12. Yes  No   
Is the storm water from your property collected so it can infiltrate into the soil? This helps recharge our ground water.

**E. Erosion Control**  
(\*add 2 points for each “yes” answer)

13. Yes  No   
Are gullies on your property stabilized and soil erosion controlled?

14. Yes  No   
Is the amount of bare soil on the property minimized, possibly through pasture seeding and management?

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

16. Yes  No  (\*add 1 point a piece if used)  
\_\_\_ Buffers of borders around the fields  
\_\_\_ Vegetative filters to prevent runoff into open bodies of water

\_\_\_ Terraces to limit erosion  
\_\_\_ Strip cropping or contouring of fields  
\_\_\_ Use of winter cover crops to prevent erosion

**F. Feed Management**  
(\*add 2 points for each “yes” answer)

17. Yes  No   
Do you manage milkhouse waste, silage waste, and excess or contaminated feed disposals to prevent contact with stormwater and/or other water sensitive areas?

18. Yes  No   
Do you have feed bunks, mangers, and feeding areas that minimize feed contact with the ground and minimize stormwater contamination?

19. Yes  No   
Do you reduce phosphorous level in the diet to minimize excretion of phosphorous?

20. Yes  No   
Do you monitor the feed intake of your animals to prevent feed overconsumption and minimize waste?

21. Yes  No   
Do you balance diets to minimize overfeeding nutrients?

22. What is the best description of how you feed your animals? (\*add 1 point a piece; check only two)  
\_\_\_ 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

**Page 2 Total** \_\_\_\_\_

Total Score (two-pages) \_\_\_\_\_

***Points earned (57 possible)***

***Grade***

<b>0-25 Poor</b>	<b>Serious attention should be paid to correcting “no” answers.</b>
<b>25-35 Fair</b>	<b>There is room for substantial improvement.</b>
<b>35-45 Good</b>	<b>Good work - keep going.</b>
<b>45+ Very Good</b>	<b>Outstanding Farm Management!</b>

This survey is meant to give you a relative idea of your environmental risk. It is not meant to be a score of your overall management. However, if you score very low on the test, you may want to have a more thorough waste management plan of your farm completed. Please contact your local Extension agent. Rutgers Cooperative Extension is working closely with state and federal partners to assist producers with animal waste management. Your local agent will be able to refer you to the people who can give you more assistance.

**Reference and adapted from:**

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

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