

PENNSYLVANIA Farm•A•Syst

FARM EVALUATION SYSTEM

WRAPPING UP

A Sample Post-Evaluation Survey*

Penn State Cooperative Extension • Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts

We would like your help in evaluating the Pennsylvania Farm•A•Syst program that recognizes farmsteads managed in an environmentally courteous way and promotes awareness of existing site conditions and management practices threatening the quality of groundwater and surface water. We appreciate the time you will take to evaluate the helpfulness and user-friendliness of the worksheets. We especially want to know if the results of the worksheets agreed with the management or conditions the landowners have created to protect groundwater and surface water. Also, we want to learn if these worksheets have prompted landowners to change management practices or site conditions on the farmstead, and what changes were made to improve environmental conditions.

1. How did you find out about the Pennsylvania Farm Evaluation System (Pennsylvania Farm•A•Syst)? (please check all that apply)

- Penn State Cooperative Extension workshop
- Natural Resources Conservation Service employee
- County extension agent
- County Conservation District employee
- Private consultant
- Friend, neighbor
- Other _____

2. Did you attend a workshop about the Pennsylvania Farm•A•Syst program? (please circle one)

YES NO

Information derived from Pennsylvania Farm•A•Syst worksheets is intended only to provide general information and recommendations to farmers regarding their own farmstead practices. It is not the intent of this educational program to keep records of individual results. However, they may be shared with others who will help you develop a resource management plan.

3. Did an extension agent, Natural Resources Conservation Service agent, Conservation District employee, or private consultant provide you with the Pennsylvania Farm•A•Syst package? (please circle one)

YES NO

4. Overall, how useful was Pennsylvania Farm•A•Syst in helping you evaluate management practices and site conditions in relation to groundwater and surface water protection? Please circle the number on the scale below which represents your overall impression.

1	2	3	4	5
not at all useful		somewhat useful		very useful

5. Which of the following worksheets did you complete? (please check all that apply)

- Water Well Condition and Construction
- Pesticide and Fertilizer Storage and Handling
- Household Wastewater Treatment System
- Barnyard Conditions and Management
- Milkhouse Wastewater Management
- Stream and Drainageway Management
- Others _____

6. Did participation in Pennsylvania Farm•A•Syst change your concern for how your practices and conditions on your farm affect everyone's groundwater and surface water supplies?

- Decreased concern
- Concern remained the same
- Increased concern

*Directions for use by the person facilitating or group sponsoring the survey:

1. This survey is part of the Pennsylvania Farm•A•Syst program.
2. It should be completed by the landowner after at least one of the Pennsylvania Farm•A•Syst worksheets is completed.
3. Facilitators should include a pre-paid envelope in the packet for return mailing of the survey.
4. Facilitators should share results with the Pennsylvania Farm•A•Syst Program at the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) office in Harrisburg in order to document the use of Pennsylvania Farm•A•Syst.

7. As you completed Pennsylvania Farm•A•Syst, did you identify any farmstead management practices or site conditions that are potential threats to groundwater and surface water supplies in your area?

- No
 Yes; in which area?
 Water Well Condition and Construction
 Pesticide and Fertilizer Storage and Handling
 Household Wastewater Treatment System
 Barnyard Conditions Management
 Milkhouse Wastewater Management
 Stream and Drainageway Management
 Others _____

8. Please indicate changes you have made recently (in the past five years) to reduce potential contamination to groundwater and surface water supplies.

Changes Made	Date	Costs	Time
Water Wells			
Pesticide and Fertilizer Storage and Handling			
Household Wastewater			
Barnyard Conditions			
Milkhouse Wastewater			
Streams and Drainageways			
Others			

9. Please indicate changes you plan to make to reduce potential contamination of groundwater and surface water supplies.

Changes Planned	Estimated		
	Date (circle one)	Costs	Time
Water Wells	immed. 1 month this year 2-5 years		
Pesticide and Fertilizer Storage and Handling	immed. 1 month this year 2-5 years		
Household Wastewater	Immed. 1 month This year 2-5 years		
Barnyard Conditions	Immed. 1 month This year 2-5 years		
Milkhouse Wastewater	Immed. 1 month This year 2-5 years		
Streams and Drainageways	Immed. 1 month This year 2-5 years		
Others	Immed. 1 month This year 2-5 years		

10. What additional assistance might you need to help modify your farmstead management practices and site conditions to reduce potential contamination to groundwater and surface water supplies?

11. Who would you be comfortable working with to receive help? (check as many as apply)

- _____ Penn State Cooperative Extension
 _____ USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
 _____ County Conservation District
 _____ Private Consultant
 _____ Farm Organization
 _____ Others _____

12. Think about the worksheets that you completed. How do you rate the worksheets overall for each characteristic listed below? Please circle the number on the scales below that best represents your view.

Format/design of worksheet is:

Easy to use 1 2 3 4 5 **Difficult to use**

Information presented is:

Understandable 1 2 3 4 5 **Hard to understand**

Information presented is:

Useful 1 2 3 4 5 **Not very useful**

Information presented on practices and conditions around my farmstead relating to water quality:

Created new awareness 1 2 3 4 5 **Was old information**

Content of ranking choices (4, 3, 2, 1) for each feature was:

Practical 1 2 3 4 5 **Impractical**

Amount of time spent completing worksheets was:

Reasonable 1 2 3 4 5 **Took too much time**

13. Please indicate below how difficult you felt each worksheet was to complete. (please circle one number per worksheet)

Worksheet	Very Easy	Easy	Difficult	Very Difficult	Did Not Complete
Water Wells	1	2	3	4	5
Pesticides and Fertilizers	1	2	3	4	5
Household Wastewater	1	2	3	4	5
Barnyard Conditions	1	2	3	4	5
Milkhouse Wastewater	1	2	3	4	5
Streams and Drainage	1	2	3	4	5
Other	1	2	3	4	5

14. How much time did you spend completing Pennsylvania Farm•A•Syst?

_____ Hours on the farmstead
 + _____ Hours off-farm (travel, time at NRCS office, etc.)
 = _____ Total hours spent

15. What value (in dollars per hour) do you put on the time that you spent completing Pennsylvania Farm•A•Syst?

\$ _____ / hour OR total amount \$ _____

16. If you were assisted in completing the worksheets, please indicate the type of assistance you received, the hours spent, and the total cost of this assistance.

Type of Assistance (circle all that apply)	Hours Spent	Total Costs
Penn State Cooperative Extension agent		(does not apply)
NRCS technician		(does not apply)
County Conservation District employee		
Private consultant or other hired help		
Other		

17. What did you like most about the Pennsylvania Farm•A•Syst program (style, format, a particular feature)?

18. What did you like least about the Pennsylvania Farm•A•Syst program (hard to understand, was not worth time and energy)?

19. How can the Pennsylvania Farm•A•Syst program be improved (content, implementation, necessity, availability, length, depth)?

20. Would you recommend that other farmers participate in the Pennsylvania Farm•A•Syst program?

- Yes, definitely
 Yes, probably
 No, probably not
 No, definitely not

21. What is your age? (please check one)

- Under 25 years of age
 25-34
 35-44
 45-54
 55-64
 65 and over

22. What county do you live in? _____

23. What are your farm plans for the next five years? (please check all that apply)

- I plan major expansions in my operation
 I plan to make a few expansions in my operation
 I plan to have no expansions
 I plan to reduce my farming operations slightly
 I plan to reduce my farming operations significantly
 I plan to stop farming and sell the farm to a non-relative
 I plan to stop farming but relatives or renters will continue

24. How many acres is your farm? (please check acres and circle appropriate ownership)

- | | | |
|---|-------|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 49 acres or less | Owned | Rented |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99 acres | Owned | Rented |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 100-259 acres | Owned | Rented |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greater than 300 acres | Owned | Rented |

25. What is your main activity?

- A. Growing crops for sale
B. Dairy
C. Poultry
D. Hogs
E. Other _____

26. What is your next most important activity?

- A. Growing crops for sale
B. Dairy
C. Poultry
D. Hogs
E. Other _____

PENNSTATE



College of Agricultural Sciences • Cooperative Extension

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