



Getting Ready

FARM Environmental Stewardship User Guide

The FARM ES module uses data from a consistent year – a 12-month period that does not necessarily reflect a calendar year. The same 12-month period (for example, March 1 to February 28) should be used each time the farm enters data into the FARM ES module. Before entering information, operations should gather the following:

- ✓ Obtain milk production records, including total production as well as average protein and fat percentages. Operations can find production information in the DHIA report or other dairy record management systems. The farm's cooperative would also be able to provide milk production data.
- ✓ Assess the average herd size, including the average number of lactating cows, dry cows, replacement heifers under 2 months (both on- and off-farm) and replacement heifers over 2 months (both on- and off-farm). This information may be available in the DHIA report or other dairy record management systems.
- ✓ Collect records on mature cows culled for beef and calves sold for beef production.
- ✓ Contact the nutritionist to obtain average feed ration for lactating cows, including concentrate and forage, preferably on a dry matter basis.
- ✓ If it applies to the operation, consult grazing records or pasture management spreadsheets. A Nutrient Management Plan may also contain pasture information.
- ✓ Collect documents on electricity and fuel consumption. Utility bills may be useful for determining electricity and natural gas usage. Information on other fuels may be found in purchase records or usage logs.
- ✓ Obtain information on manure management systems. The farm's Nutrient Management Plan or Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan may contain details on manure management.
- ✓ For operations with anaerobic digesters, contact the company that installed or operates the digester for information on conversion efficiency and the percentage of electricity or heat utilized.

*To learn more about the National Dairy FARM Program, visit **nationaldairyfarm.com**.*

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