



# Livestock Technical Assistance

The Livestock Technical Assistance program provides resources that prevent environmental impacts due to livestock operations. From small farms to large dairies, this program helps livestock owners develop nutrient management plans and install practices that protect water quality.

**Background** On the list of Washington State's top commodities from 2010-2012, milk ranks number three and cattle and calves come in at number six (USDA – NW Regional Field Office). With both of these commodities in the top ten, it's clear that livestock operations are invaluable to Washington's economy. However, it is also important to prevent waste and other contaminants associated with livestock operations from polluting nearby streams.

**A "Win-Win" Approach** The Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) and partner conservation districts advocate for successful and environmentally sustainable livestock operations. That's why the WSCC's Livestock Technical Assistance program represents a "win-win" approach for livestock producers to achieve their agricultural goals and prevent impacts to water quality.

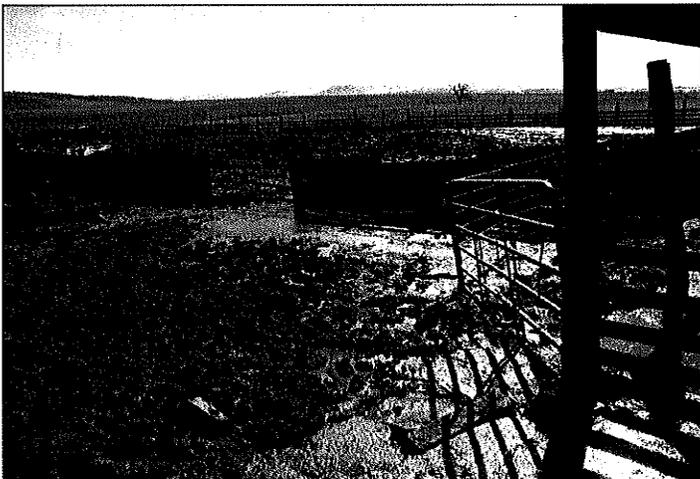
## What is a Nutrient Management Plan?

- Provides site-specific "road maps" that outline steps livestock operations must take to comply with Washington State's Dairy Nutrient Management Act and/or permit requirements for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO).
- Promotes wise manure management through proper storage practices and by using facility nutrients to supply crop needs.
- Prevents livestock wastewater and contaminants from degrading water quality.

Through this program, livestock producers receive on-site assistance to help them develop, implement, and update nutrient management plans. These plans outline a process to better control soil, water, air, plants, and animals at their facility while still maintaining viable livestock operations.

Assistance is provided to all livestock facilities, regardless of size. Animals may include cattle, horses, pigs, sheep, llamas, and others.

Winter feedlot before (left) and after (right) the Central Klickitat Conservation District helped landowner develop and implement nutrient management practices



**It takes technicians an average of six gate visits with a livestock producer to complete a nutrient management plan for their farm.**



Right: Heritage Farm, San Juan Island Conservation District

**How it Works** The WSCC works in coordination with Washington State's 45 conservation districts to implement practices that ensure healthy soil, water, and air. Livestock Technical Assistance is one of many grant programs the WSCC administers to conservation districts.

Grants issued through the Livestock Technical Assistance program fund technicians who work at the conservation district-level. These technicians provide assistance to landowners and write nutrient management plans for livestock facilities.

For many farm owners, implementing nutrient management practices as part of their farm plan occurs only as funding and time become available, which may take years. Through the Livestock Technical Assistance program, conservation district technicians shepherd livestock producers through the process in an efficient and timely manner.

**Success on the Ground** Dairy and livestock industries account for over 60 percent of Whatcom County's primary agricultural products (2007 Census of Agriculture). Downstream, the county also supports a lucrative shellfish industry.

Whatcom Conservation District (WCD) is committed to wise planning and resource management that allows both of these industries to thrive. WCD uses Livestock Technical Assistance funding help farmers adopt best management practices that minimize the impacts of livestock operations on soil and water resources. In FY 2011-2013 alone, their livestock program accomplishments included:

- 150+ landowners/managers assisted.
- 40,200 acres protected, improved or enhanced.
- 140 federally funded practices installed.
- 2 state funded practices installed.
- 54 conservation plans completed or updated.



**Washington State  
Conservation  
Commission**

### **Contact Information**

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# 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

Fall 2008

**A farm plan is a document developed by your Conservation District and you, the farmer or landowner.**

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

- farm size
- soil types
- slope of the land
- proximity to streams or water bodies
- type of livestock or crops
- farmer's goals
- available resources (machinery, time, money)

You don't have to be a commercial operation to have a farm plan developed for you. The Whatcom Conservation District (WCD) works with farms of all sizes, from backyard horse owners to dairy and beef operations!

**First, 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 resources.

Some examples include:

- pasture management,
- weed control techniques,
- heavy use area protection

### Best Management Practice (BMP) Factsheets

Livestock Confinement	Composting
Reducing Mud	Pasture Management
Roof Runoff Structures	Fencing-Types and Costs
Filter Strips and Buffers	Farm Plan
Manure Storage	Wetlands



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

Together 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 Conservation District 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.

For more information please go to [www.whatcomcd.org](http://www.whatcomcd.org) or call 360-354-2035 x3.

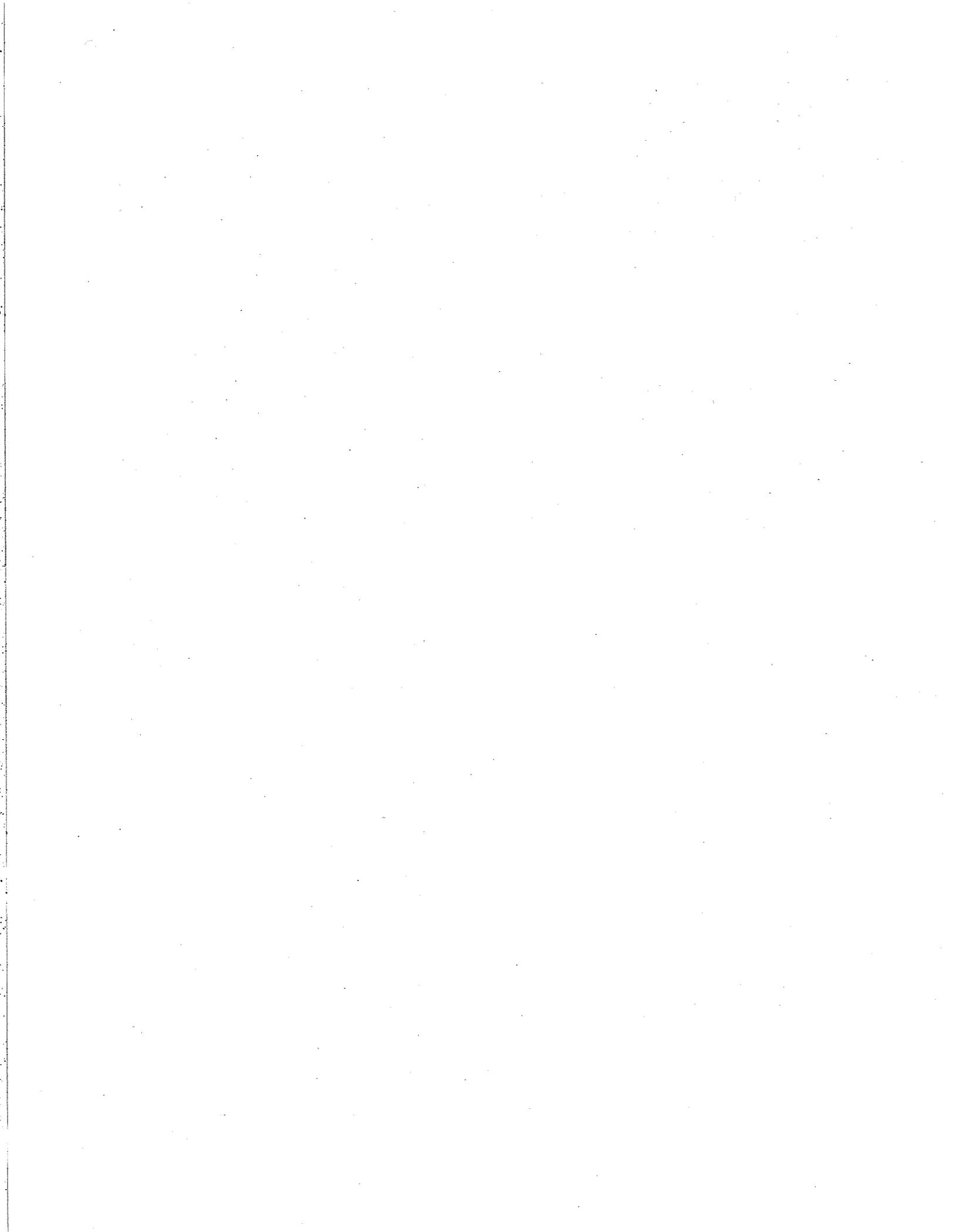
Mission of Whatcom Conservation District

"To serve present and future generations of Whatcom County through a natural resource conservation program of leadership, partnership, and technical, educational, and financial assistance to foster a healthy, sustainable relationship between people and the environment."



(360)354-2035  
[www.whatcomcd.org](http://www.whatcomcd.org)

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# Clark Conservation District

WHO ARE WE AND WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?



## HOW CAN I GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU?

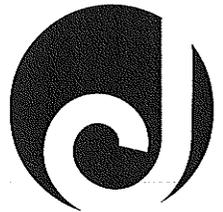
To find out more about our services and cost share opportunities, call us at (360) 883-1987 ext. 5 or e-mail us at [staff@clarkcd.org](mailto:staff@clarkcd.org). We look forward to working with you to fill your conservation needs and help you protect your natural resources.



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
District Chair: Dean Longrie, Ph.D.  
Vice-Chair: John Baugher  
Auditor/Treasurer: Steven Keirn  
Member: Doug Stienbarger  
Member: Lynn Engdahl, Ph.D.



**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS**  
Dr. Milada Allen  
Tanna Engdahl  
Rob Guttridge  
Phil and Louann Renner  
Rudy Salakory



Clark Conservation District  
11104 NE 149th Street  
Building C, Suite 400  
Brush Prairie, WA 98606

## WE CAN OFFER TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR:

- Wildlife Habitat Improvement
- Fish Barrier Removal
- Water Quality
- Educational Programs
- Agricultural Production
- Regulatory Compliance
- Erosion Control
- Forest Management
- Riparian Area Protection
- Conservation Planning
- Wetland Restoration



## Clark Conservation District

Phone: 360-883-1987 ext. 5  
Email: [staff@clarkcd.org](mailto:staff@clarkcd.org)  
Website: [www.clarkcd.org](http://www.clarkcd.org)

## WHAT IS A CONSERVATION DISTRICT?

Washington State's 45 conservation districts make up a grass roots conservation delivery system that identifies local problems and offers voluntary solutions to land owners.

Conservation districts provide an important

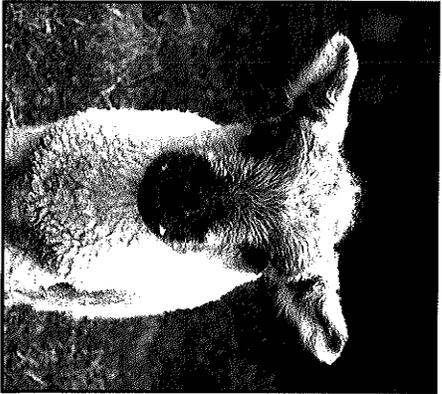
connection between land owners and government agencies in order to promote and implement technical and financial assistance programs to conserve natural resources.

## HOW ARE WE FUNDED?

We are funded with

government grants through agencies such as:

- Washington State Conservation Commission
- Washington State Department of Ecology
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service

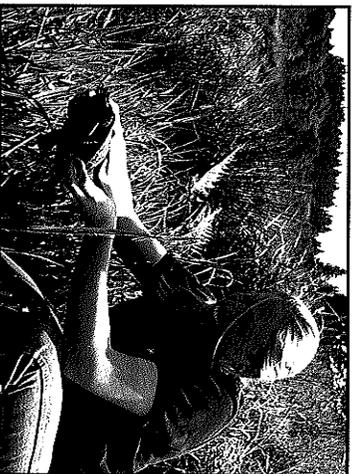
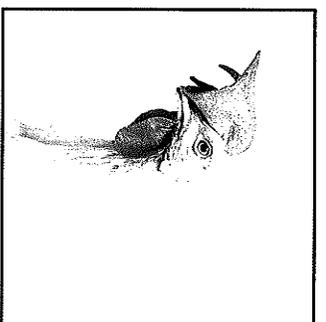


## WHAT DO WE DO?

- Implement farm conservation practices
- Conserve and restore wetlands
- Protect groundwater resources
- Plant trees and other land cover to stabilize soil, provide wildlife cover, and beautify.
- Help developers and homeowners manage land in an environmentally sensitive manner.
- Reach out to the public to teach the value of natural resources and encourage conservation.

## OUR MISSION:

THE MISSION of Clark Conservation District is to protect, conserve, and improve the natural resources of Clark County. Clark CD focuses on water quality, soil management, and critical habitat areas. We also assist landowners in the use and conservation of natural resources. Community members and landowners play a vital role in ensuring the overall success of our District. From planting trees to becoming involved in policy making, individuals can make a difference in their community.



## WHAT IF I'M DOING SOMETHING WRONG?

Conservation Districts are non-regulatory, so you never have to worry about being fined or punished. We are here to help and assist, not enforce laws.

