



## **USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference**

### [Development and Integration of a National Feed Management Education Program and Assessment Tools into a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan](#)

In 2005 an education project that is national in scope was funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Innovation grant program. The project will develop, test, evaluate, and implement a National Feed Management Education Program and Assessment Tools into a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan. The project is designed to encourage adoption of Feed Management practices that will have a positive impact on soil, water, and air quality. The goal of the proposed project is to assist NRCS staff and agricultural professionals to increase their understanding of Feed Management, and its impacts on Environmental Sustainability of Livestock and Poultry Operations. The three primary project objectives identified are: 1) develop and evaluate a two-tier tool for assessing the impacts of feed management practices on whole farm nutrient balance for animal nutritionists, NRCS staff and TSP advisors, 2) develop the content of a Feed Management chapter for the NRCS Agricultural Waste Management Field Handbook (AWMFH), and 3) develop and implement a education program targeting integration of feed management into a CNMP. Specific outcomes are: 1) develop educational materials that are applicable at the national level, 2) provide training for NRCS staff, agricultural professionals, and technical service providers (TSPs) in feed management concepts and practices that minimize import of nutrients to the farm, 3) provide training in the use of computer models and software for strategic ration balancing, whole farm nutrient balance, and nutrient excretion estimates based upon feed and animal performance inputs, and 4) develop a chapter for the NRCS Agricultural Waste Management Field Handbook (AWMFH) on Feed Management.

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