



FARM Environmental Stewardship Version 3 Update

WHAT IS FARM ES?

U.S. dairy farmers have a long history of being good environmental stewards. The Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) Environmental Stewardship (ES) program helps track and communicate environmental achievements while setting a path for continuous improvement. Cooperatives and processors can aggregate data from FARM ES, capturing the on-farm commitment to environmental progress and providing assurances to customers and consumers.

VERSION 3 UPDATES

The updated FARM ES uses a new greenhouse gas (GHG) model that offers robust what-if scenarios so farmers can assess the impacts of potential practice or technology adoption. This equips farmers to make decisions that align with sustainability and economic goals for their farm. The Ruminant Farm System (RuFaS) model that powers FARM ES Version 3 is backed by robust science and led by researchers from across the country.¹ The FARM Program facilitated real-world testing of the model to make sure the new platform meets FARM's commitment of working for farms of all sizes, geographies, and production styles.

Similar to prior versions, the updated FARM ES is designed with U.S. dairy farmers in mind; the minimum data inputs are ones most farms have on-hand. The tool also has optional data inputs, prefilled with defaults, that farmers can override with their farm's data to provide more tailored results.

Improved data inputs include:

- For ration information: expanded library of byproduct feeds, regional byproduct mixes and ability to specify use of methane-reducing feed additives
- Redesigned manure section to better reflect how farmers consider manure management

New, optional data inputs include:

- Ability to enter the farm's cropping practices for more tailored results on emissions and carbon sequestration estimates
- Details on repro management and culling information, which can influence the farm's overall emissions

¹ www.rufas.org



WHY FARM ES VERSION 3?

Upgrading the science powering FARM ES offers several benefits for addressing customer requests while offering more insights to farmers and FARM Program participants:

- A more robust and accurate model while remaining practical and easy to use
- Farm-level environmental insights through scenario analyses to support informed decision-making about the adoption of practices and technology
- Increased functions to enable farmers, cooperatives and processors to work with supply chain customers interested in investing in on-farm interventions and GHG reductions.

lb CO ₂ e / lb FPCM					
Emissions Source	Baseline	Scenario 2	Diff from Baseline	Scenario 3	Diff from Baseline
Feed Production	0.276	0.276	0	0.259	-0.017
On-Site Manure	0.367	0.581	0.213	0.317	-0.05
On-Site Energy	0.127	0.127	0	0.116	-0.011
On-Site Enteric	0.444	0.444	0	0.414	-0.029
Total	1.214	1.427	0.213	1.106	-0.108
Annual Milk Production	-	-	0%	-	11%

Key dairy buyers are aware and supportive of FARM ES's plans for integrating the RuFaS model.

HOW TO ACCESS FARM ES VERSION 3

Farmers can reach out to their FARM Program evaluator to gain access to a FARM ES Version 3 platform once it launches. If the farm's cooperative or processor does not yet participate in FARM ES or if a farm would like to conduct a self-evaluation, reach out to dairyfarm@nmpf.org for guidance.

CHECK OUT THE FARM ES
VERSION 3 DEVELOPMENT
PAGE:



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