



CHECKLIST FORM FOR ASSESSING GRAZING OPERATIONS

Date: _____

Name of Person Completing checklist: _____

Facility Information

Facility Name:	Owner Name & Address (if different):
Address:	Nearest Water Body:
Operator Name & Address:	Number of Animals:
Operator Telephone Number:	Type of Animals:
Facility's Assessor's Parcel Number:	
Grazing Management Plan Objective: Conserve and manage the grazing landscape resources of the ranch that contribute livestock grazing viability and soil and water stewardship.	

RESOURCE ASSESSMENT (required and kept on-site)

The following questions are intended to help assess ranch/farm water quality and potential sources of pollution in the watershed due to grazing or pasture management. It is important to note that identified pollution sources **may not be caused by current livestock grazing activities**. This assessment can be used on each pasture/field or the entire ranch may be assessed at once. Note any recorded problem conditions as caused by: **C**urrent livestock management (**C**); a **H**istoric legacy site (**H**) where past management like timber harvest influenced conditions; or **N**atural causes (**N**) resulting from underlying geology and soils for example.

Question	Potential Source	Describe Condition, Location, & Solutions	Cause (C, H, or N)
SEDIMENT			
RANGELAND & PASTURE/CROP FIELDS			
Bare soil visible throughout the rainy season?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
Rill or sheet erosion present?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
Gullies, slumps, or headcuts present?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
ROADS			
Surface erosion present on road(s) (rills, gullies)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
Culverts or ditches cause gullies or erosion?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
Sediment fills drainage ditches after winter?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
NUTRIENTS AND PATHOGENS			
LIVESTOCK DISTRIBUTION			
Storm runoff from pastures connects to stream?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
Pastures used throughout the winter?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
Feeding, salting, or watering areas near stream?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
Do livestock have direct access to stream?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		

MANURE MANAGEMENT			
Manure stockpile runoff connects to stream?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
Manure applied to pasture less than 2 weeks before a runoff generating rain storm?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
Manure applied to pastures is stored (aged) less than one month?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
Conservation practices are used when manure is applied to pastures with a stream present (more than 100 feet separation distance from a stream unless a 35-foot wide vegetative buffer or physical barrier exists.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
MERCURY (for Walker Creek & Arroyo Sausal and Salmon Creek just upstream of the confluence)			
Floodplain soil disturbed, tilled, or eroding?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applic.		
Stock ponds or sediment basins on the floodplain?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applic.		

RIPARIAN ASSESSMENT (required and kept on-site)

This assessment is intended for perennial or intermittent streams that provide habitat for fish or frogs or support riparian vegetation. If you do not have streams with riparian vegetation, assess the larger intermittent stream channels that flow during the rainy season. Assess ranch/farm streams while standing near the creek. It is important to note that **concerns identified may not be caused by current livestock grazing activities**. Describe the condition and location. Note any recorded problem conditions as caused by: **C**urrent livestock management (**C**); a **H**istoric legacy site (**H**) where past management like timber harvest influenced conditions; or **N**atural causes (**N**) resulting from underlying geology and soils for example.

Question	Potential Concern	Describe Condition, Location, & Solutions	Cause (C, H, or N)
STREAM CHANNEL			
Bare soil along banks of stream?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
Are streams exposed to full sun?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
Unstable or eroding stream banks?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
Does the stream have a lack of good cover of grasses, trees, and shrubs?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
Algae growth excessive in stream?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
Are crossings for livestock secure?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		
Do livestock have access to or congregate in riparian areas?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure		

Inventory of Management Practices on Pastures and Rangelands (required and kept on-site)

Date _____

Overview

The following list of management practices is used to inventory completed and potential future actions to address soil and water resource conservation. Check the boxes for any measures already implemented and underline the measures for any that are being considered in the future.

Erosion control (Measures taken to minimize erosion and the discharge of soil particles to surface water [objective is to prevent sheet, gully and rill erosion.]

- Stream bank stabilization
- Soil stabilization on steep slopes
- Restrict animal access to steep areas during vulnerable periods
- Vegetative filter strips/areas between the production area and any surface waters
- Managed rotational grazing
- Diversion ditch
- Plant residue tillage management
- Cover crop management
- Production area planting prior to winter rains
- Distribution of straw or other non-manure material to protect soil from rainfall in exposed areas (production area, intensive used areas near gates or waters)
- Irrigation system management
- Conveyance and adequate storage of runoff water
- Stream protection (please list all stream water quality protection measures throughout the dairy)
- Riparian area management (cover, buffer)
- Fencing
- Provide and maintain livestock crossings to keep cattle out of surface water
- Stream bank stabilization
- Windbreak/shelter belt use
- Filter strip
- Stream habitat improvement
- Stream bank management
- Grade stabilization
- Watering facility access management
- Storm water runoff control
- Stream crossing control
- Stream bank shoreline protection
- Establishment and use of sedimentation ponds if needed

Nuisance control (Measures taken to prevent nuisance from manure ponds. Include measures to control: odors, breeding of mosquitoes, damage from burrowing animals, damage from equipment during removal of solids, embankment settling, erosion seepage, excess weeds, algae, and other vegetation that could compromise the needed capacity or proper functioning of your manure pond and/or degrade water quality.

- Rodent control program
- Weed/vegetation management

Groundwater protection (what practices are employed at the dairy facility to protect groundwater from contamination at wellheads, sinkholes, and tile drains?)

- Manure is not applied at or near the wellhead
- Flow of contaminated runoff is diverted around the wellhead
- Standing water is not permitted at the wellhead

Other management practices not mentioned above (use space below to list)

FUTURE WATER QUALITY PROJECTS(required and kept on-site)

List all future potential water quality concerns on the ranch/farm with the expected pollutants from each. A concern does not indicate that livestock grazing or current management caused it. This includes locations where your current maintenance prevents problems such as maintaining ranch roads following winter storms. Consider multiple options for fixing water quality concerns such as implementing new practices, and changing management or maintenance routines. Estimate the approximate cost of each option as well as the amount of time needed to conduct maintenance. Give each project a priority, relative to other potential projects, indicating preferred order implementing the project. Assignment of priority recognizes that the availability of financial and technical assistance determines when work is done. List the steps taken to plan for the project including participation in technical & financial assistance programs (ranch visits, meetings, applications, expected contract dates, etc). Use additional sheets if needed.

Water Quality Concern		Location (<i>pasture/ field</i>)	Options for Maintenance, Management Changes, or Practice(s) to Implement	Estimate Cost of Each Option	Priority	Implementation Planning
#	Describe					