



## Frequently Asked Questions: FARM Environmental Stewardship

### What is the Environmental Stewardship module?

The National Dairy FARM (Farmers Assuring Responsible Management) Program, administered and managed by the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) will launch the FARM Environmental Stewardship module. It will allow for the collection and dissemination of information on greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and energy use on dairy farms. The assessment will also help dairy producers to identify potential efficiency gains, cost savings, and to track progress in a secure, confidential platform.

### Who can use the new module?

The FARM Environmental Stewardship module will be voluntarily available to all FARM program participants.

### Is the use of the module mandatory?

No. FARM Program participants will have the option to complete the assessment in conjunction with or separate from existing animal care evaluations.

### Who developed the module?

FARM Environmental Stewardship integrates the methodology and science that resides in Farm Smart™, which was developed by the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy over the last several years. Farm Smart's science-based models were field-tested on dozens of farms and in several full supply chain pilots, and are being fully integrated into FARM.

FARM Environmental Stewardship is a strong addition to the FARM Program's existing Antibiotic Stewardship and Animal Care modules, which have earned strong customer support.

### When will it be available?

The new module will be launched in conjunction with the FARM Animal Care Version 3.0, on January 1, 2017. Materials are being developed to guide evaluators and employees through the on-farm assessment process.



### Why is this module needed?

The FARM Environmental Stewardship module provides a baseline from which farmers can identify potential efficiency gains and cost savings, while tracking progress in a secure, confidential platform. Further, dairy cooperatives and companies are increasingly asked to supply information about the sustainability progress being made by their member dairies. This module provides producers and dairy cooperatives and companies with a more streamlined, single source for voluntary on-farm assessment.

Once FARM Environmental Stewardship is complete, FARM Program participants will have the option to complete the assessment in conjunction with or separate from existing animal care evaluations. NMPF will work closely with the dairy community to ensure this module adds value for our cooperatives and farmers.

### Will the FARM Program share my individual farm information?

No. FARM Environmental Stewardship will not use individual farm data however, the program will be using data on an aggregated national level to promote progress.

### How will the module be updated and changed?

As environmental science continues to evolve, the models and science in FARM Environmental Stewardship will be updated in partnership with the Innovation Center. The governance structure for FARM Environmental Stewardship will mirror that of the FARM Animal Care with input from a technical writing group and the NMPF Environmental Committee. Final approval for the FARM Program rests with the NMPF Board of Directors. Staff and experts from the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy will participate on both the Technical Writing Group and the Environmental Committee.

### Where can I get more information?

For further information or questions, please contact Ryan Bennett, NMPF's Senior Director of Industry and Environmental Affairs, at [rbennett@nmpf.org](mailto:rbennett@nmpf.org).