# Conservation and Environmental Stewardship

## Situation Overview:

A. *How does this farm view their environmental responsibilities for both the farm and land? Please describe.* We want to be good stewards of the land realizing that matching nutrient needs and nutrient availability will both reduce need for purchased fertilizer and maximize yield potential. It also should reduce excess runoff that could affect the township water supply and other entities "downstream."

B. *What conservation and environmental best management practices (BMPs) have been incorporated into the farm plan during the last 5-10 years?*

- Crop residue management
  - No-till
  - Conservation till
- Contour farming
- Contour strip cropping
- Filter strip
- Conservation buffers
- Crop rotations
- Cover crops
- Grassed waterways
- Animal Trails/Walkways
- Structure for water control
- Barnyard runoff controls/Heavy use area protection
- Water (manure) storages/Manure Stacking
- Animal mortality handling facility
- Milk house waste
- Roof runoff management
- Precision feeding/Feed management
- Integrated pest management

C. *Does the farm have a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) or Manure Management Plan?* Yes. *Did this project change the way the farm handles animal manure? Please describe.* We have had a NMP for a number of years because of a partnership with the local township wellhead protection program. An updated plan and modified crop rotation with expansion has changed the manure application rates and timing.

D. *Is manure applied in the winter months (generally December – February)? Is the manure applied in winter due to not enough storage or for other reasons such as timing, field conditions in spring, etc.? [if yes, for what particular reason(s):]* We try to avoid winter application, but only one field has restrictions. All others allow winter application with cover crop. We do haul onto rye if field conditions and storage allow.

E. *Does the farm have a conservation plan or an agricultural erosion and sedimentation control plan? If yes, what are the key components?* The key components in our conservation plan is crop rotation and reduced tillage practices.