



FACT SHEET 2.3

PLANNING YOUR HOBBY FARM

Whether you are developing a new hobby farm or improving an existing one, we recommend you seek as much information as possible to help you plan successful and rewarding farm activities.

Depending on the type and scale of hobby farm activities, the development or improvement of a hobby farm requires you to collect information to judge whether you have enough time and space. Once you do, develop a site plan, and identify the Best Management Practices needed to control impacts to stormwater runoff and nearby water resources.

For example, if you want to keep animals, you will need specific information on the types of animals you intend to keep so you can determine how large an area is required for grazing and manure management without impacting nearby surface water.

You will also need information on sheltering the animals, confining them on your property, water supply and feed requirements and any other factors that would affect how you organize your hobby farm activities.

Checklist 2A contains a series of questions designed to help you gather and document information about your current and/or proposed hobby farming activities. Bear in mind that you may need to revisit each of these questions as you learn about the water resources on or near your property, regulations affecting your activities, and the physical constraints of your property. For example, you may change your mind about the type of animals you will keep when you learn more about your town's zoning requirements.

HELPFUL LINKS

www.ag.umass.edu/umass-extension-your-community

www.usda.gov/topics/rural/cooperative-research-and-extension-services

