



WAIKATO

FARM ENVIRONMENT PLAN GUIDELINES

By farmers. For farmers





INTRODUCTION

Waikato is facing unique challenges with land use and water quality. The Waikato Regional Plan aims to address these, with Farm Environment Plans (FEP) as its greatest potential tool for implementing the rules and achieving the objectives set by the plan.

A Beef + Lamb New Zealand FEP allows farmers to tailor responses and timeframes to their individual businesses. These can be managed one step at a time. Continuous improvement is key and more realistic than expecting everything to be done in one year.

The Beef + Lamb New Zealand FEP is intended to be a living document which is reviewed and updated annually to reflect changes in the business, new risks, and account for actions to manage risks in the previous year. It is intended that this document will help meet farmers' requirements under the Waikato Regional Plan, and provide a useful tool for farmers to manage their resources using good practice guidelines.

STEPS

ONE PREPARE FARM MAP

TWO DEFINE AND DESCRIBE LMUs

THREE IDENTIFY STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES FOR EACH LMU

FOUR REVIEW NUTRIENT BUDGET INFORMATION

FIVE LIST ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES AND OUTLINE CURRENT PRACTICES

SIX IDENTIFY NEW ACTIONS BASED ON IDENTIFIED RISKS

SEVEN IMPLEMENT, MONITOR AND REVIEW

GUIDELINES

WAIKATO FARM ENVIRONMENT PLAN

Note: One Farm Environment Plan (FEP) is needed per property or farming enterprise which may include a number of properties in common ownership. If you own more than one property in the same catchment then one FEP may be enough—check this with the Waikato Regional Council.

This guide provides a step-wise approach for the preparation of Waikato Farm Environment Plans (FEPs).

It has been developed to help Waikato farmers complete an FEP which satisfies the requirements of Waikato Regional Council (WRC).

An FEP is a way to demonstrate good management to the regional council, but also identify opportunities for efficiency gains within your business. It shows the wider community that farmers are good caretakers of the land and records the unique aspects of your property for future management.

An FEP is good for your business as well as the environment.

To complete this FEP you will need:

- An aerial photo or farm map
- A recent nutrient budget (completed using OVERSEER®).
- The information required to complete the workbook.

INSTRUCTIONS

This guide includes:

- WRC defined environmental objectives
- A list of common good management practices
- Examples of LMUs (Land Management Units), a map, descriptions, strengths and weaknesses.

By completing this Waikato FEP and implementing your plan you will be joining the growing number of farmers future-proofing their business.

This FEP should be completed at a Beef + Lamb New Zealand (B+LNZ) workshop or with support from a farm advisor, regional council representative or other technical advisor. A trained facilitator and WRC staff, will be available at workshops to answer your questions and help you prepare your FEP. To meet the requirements of WRC, your FEP must be approved by a Certified Farm Environment Planner.

ONE PREPARE A FARM MAP

Create a farm map that shows sites of interest for farm environment planning.

Obtain an aerial photo (copy)

Many farmers already have an aerial photo or an orthophoto of their farm. These can be obtained online (e.g. Google Earth), from commercial suppliers, rural practitioners or WRC. Photography outlets, printers, copy centres and desktop publishers can provide large format copies and resizing.

Orthophotos are strongly recommended because they have been digitally corrected to remove distortions caused by camera tilt, lens curvature and terrain unevenness.

Make at least three copies of the farm photo. Minimum size should be A3 (297 x 420 mm), but bigger is better for farm mapping. Spanning the farm photo across two or three A3 size pages achieves a detailed but manageable scale.

Increasingly there is electronic mapping or planning packages available so you can create your map on your computer, including separate layers for different items, e.g. waterways, fences, pipelines.

Colour maps or aerial photos are needed, rather than black and white.

Map relevant features (required)

1. Mark in a north arrow and give the map a name (e.g. Smith's Farm Map).
2. Map features of interest. These can be natural (e.g. wetlands, waterways) or constructed (e.g. buildings, tracks).
3. Minimum features to map include:
 - The boundaries of the property;
 - The locations of the main land uses that occur on the property;
 - The locations of existing and future actions to manage contaminant loss;
 - Any internal property boundaries that relate to risks and actions described in this plan;
 - The location of continually flowing rivers, streams, drains and permanent lakes, ponds and wetlands;
 - The location of riparian vegetation and fences adjacent to water bodies; and
 - The location of critical source areas for contaminants.
4. Use symbols, lines, hatching and colour to differentiate features.
5. Create a legend that lists and describes what each map symbol represents.

Additional features for consideration (optional)

- Shelterbelts
- Bores
- Conservation trees
- Detention dams and other structures
- Dumps
- Prevailing wind direction
- Archaeological sites
- Chemical storage sheds
- Runoff points to water (dips, yards, tracks)
- Power pylons, pipelines, easements
- Cultural sites
- Pest or weed control areas.



The endpoint of this step is a **farm map** for your FEP.

TWO LAND MANAGEMENT UNITS

Land Management Units (LMUs) are areas of land that can be farmed or managed in a similar way because of underlying physical similarities.

They can represent a static snapshot of how land is currently used, or an insight into how land could be used if all physical opportunities were realised.

Designing new Land Management Units involves:

1. Grouping similar land types
2. Evaluating strengths and weaknesses
3. Developing a resource chart.

If a part of the farm is managed uniquely then it should be a separate unit.

Your LMUs should be the same as the blocks used in your OVERSEER nutrient budget.

LMUs represent farming's interaction with the physical landscape. The idea is to better clarify what you have (the land resource) so it can be better matched with what you need (a productive sustainable farming system).

LAND RESOURCE
What you have

How well matched is the current system?

Can land management be changed to better the land resource?

Can the land resource be developed to improve land use?

What are the opportunities? What are the limitations?

**PRODUCTIVE
SUSTAINABLE
FARMING SYSTEM**
What to aim for

DESIGN LAND MANAGEMENT UNITS

Create a map of Land Management Units (LMUs).

Group similar land types into LMUs

Aim to aggregate the many different land types into a more manageable set of LMUs.

Many small areas can be grouped as one LMU (e.g. patches of bush).

For the remainder, consider each land type individually. What makes it different? Does it have favourable qualities? Unfavourable qualities? Can it be grouped with other similar land types?

You may already have different management blocks, e.g. lambing block, beef unit block, cropping block, back country block. Map these existing management blocks against your Land Resource Map (either on a second copy, or on the one already prepared if it is not too cluttered).

LMUs are meant to be practical so use existing fence lines to define unit boundaries (unless you identify an opportunity that requires changes to fence lines). Other factors to consider when drafting LMUs are listed opposite.

LMUs may be based on OVERSEER topography classes, e.g:

- Flat (0-7°)
- Easy (8-15°)
- Rolling (16-25°)
- Steep (>25°)

Other considerations for the design of LMUs

- Riparian zones
- Soil type/soil order
- Natural drainage
- Dryness
- Iron or clay pans
- Changes in geology
- Soil depth
- Erosion—existing and at risk areas
- Aspect
- Stoniness
- Flooding frequency
- Elevation
- Contour and slope
- Workability
- Soil texture (e.g. clayey, sandy, etc.)
- Areas at different stages of development
- Erosion management areas
- Wetlands
- Fragile soils
- Pugging management areas
- Weed or pest control areas
- Stock risk areas (gorges, tomos)
- Fertiliser policy
- Irrigation (separated by type)
- Climate
- Accessibility
- Distance from services and facilities.



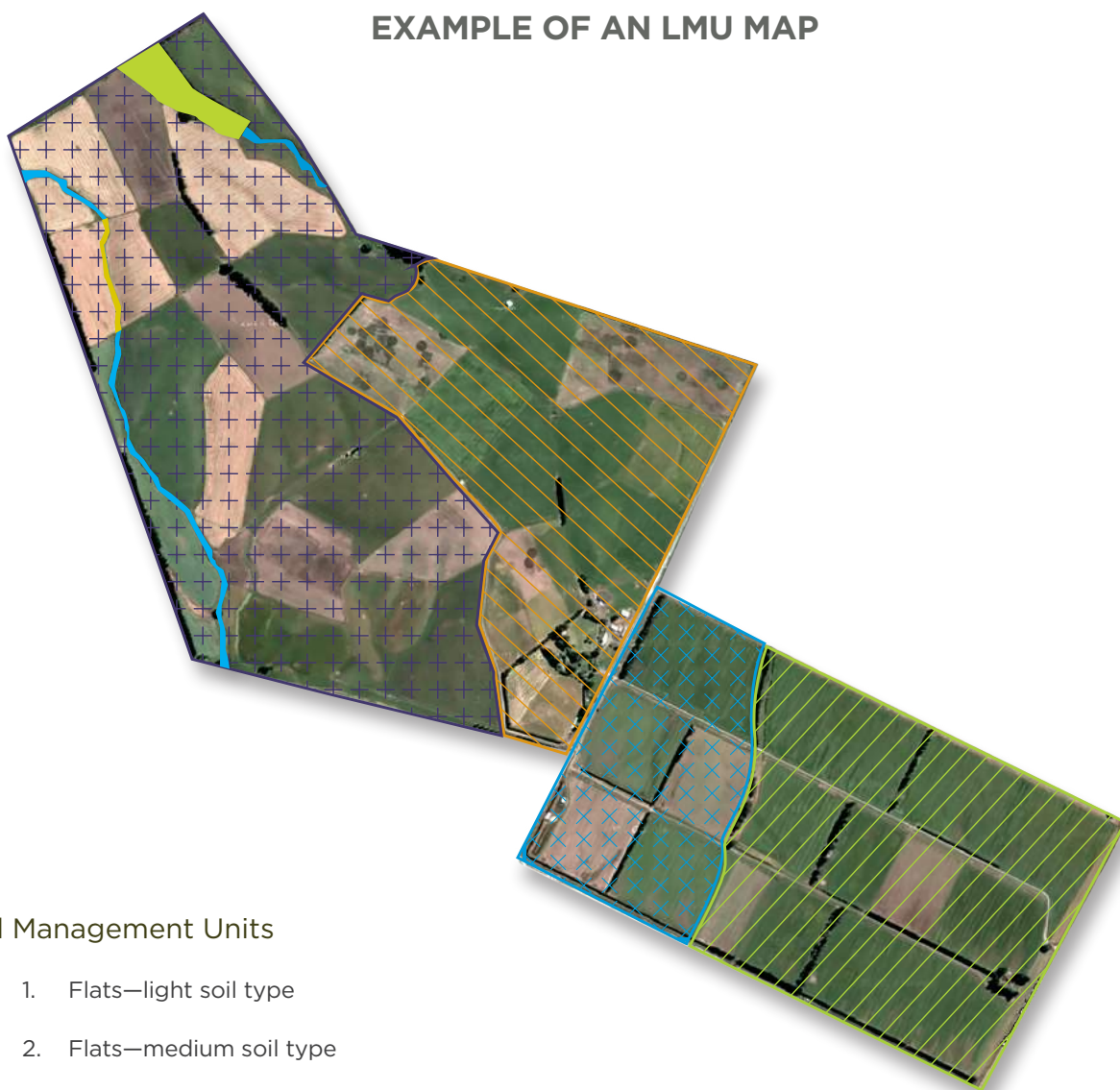
The endpoint of this step is a **map of the LMUs** on your farm.

LAND AND SOIL INFORMATION






Some farms already have detailed land resource maps. This may be a soil map, or a Land Resource Inventory (LRI) and Land Use Capability (LUC) map surveyed by a regional council or catchment board. Detailed Waikato soil information is available at smap.landcareresearch.co.nz/home.

SMap soil factsheets also include OVERSEER input information for soil types.

EXAMPLE OF AN LMU MAP



Land Management Units

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
|  | 1. Flats—light soil type |
|  | 2. Flats—medium soil type |
|  | 3. Rolling hill country |
|  | 4. Dryland rolling hill |
|  | 5. Forestry |
|  | 6. Fenced riparian areas |
|  | 7. Unfenced riparian areas |

THREE STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES

Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each LMU.

List strengths and weaknesses of each LMU

What is defined as a strength or weakness depends on the management purpose being considered. For example, stoniness may be a weakness in terms of higher for nitrogen leaching loss, but it may represent a strength for winter grazing (to avoid pugging).

Think about strengths and weaknesses for each block for nutrient loss, livestock access to waterways, irrigation management (if applicable), as well as other factors.

Record strengths and weaknesses under the appropriate headings in the resource chart on pages 4 and 5 of your workbook. Include environmental risks related to nutrient, soil, and waterway management. As you work through the table you may identify opportunities that require LMUs to be modified. Examples of possible strengths and weaknesses are listed below.

Examples of possible strengths

- Free draining
- Deep topsoil
- Good soil moisture-holding ability
- High natural fertility
- Good soil structure
- Balanced soil texture (e.g. loam)
- Resistant to pugging
- Well aerated
- Optimum fertility
- Optimum pH
- Flat land
- Naturally sheltered
- Warm aspect
- Stable (no erosion)
- New pasture
- Good pasture quality
- Shelter—maybe good lambing or fawning blocks
- Artificially drained
- Low insect risk
- Low in weeds
- Good stock access to water
- Good machinery access.

Examples of possible weaknesses

- Poorly drained
- Shallow topsoil
- Poor soil moisture-holding ability
- Low natural fertility
- Poor soil structure
- Susceptible to pugging or compaction
- High water table
- High nutrient leaching
- High runoff risk
- Excessive stoniness
- Hot dry aspect
- Wet cold aspect
- Drought prone
- Erosion prone
- Flooding risk
- Low quality pasture
- Excessively steep
- Exposed
- Weed or pest problems
- Poor stock access to water
- Poor machinery access
- Inefficient irrigation system.

RESOURCE CHART

Describe and record the characteristics, strengths, and weaknesses of each LMU.

Describe the physical characteristics of each LMU.

Prepare a resource chart. An example is provided on the next page.

Refer back to the farm resource map to describe physical characteristics of each LMU.

Based on the resources, strengths and weaknesses identified, are there any opportunities or constraints in the current management blocks that could be changed to better use your land? Consider adding these to the Action Plan on page 16 of the workbook.

Example of a resource chart (not related to LMU map on page 5)

LMU	DESCRIPTION	STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	USES AND MANAGEMENT
A1+A2	Main block	Medium water holding capacity Free draining Uniform soil type Some shelter (west) High P retention Good access Good infrastructure	Susceptible to grass grub New grass every four years Can be wind prone Susceptible to N leaching Drought prone/looses moisture High P retention	Dairy support Pasture
B	Lucerne	Medium water holding capacity Free draining Uniform soil type Some shelter (west) High P retention Good access Good infrastructure warm early country Minimal frosts 50% Better than grass—can yield up to 22 tonne	Susceptible to grass grub Can be wind prone Susceptible to N leaching Drought prone/looses moisture High P retention Variation in yield 12-22 tonne	Dairy support Lucerne
C	River flats	Warm—sheltered Low P retention	Winter wet Isolated	Dairy support Pasture Some cattle wintering
D	Water race	Heavy soil—holds moisture Low P retention	Pugging with cattle in winter Seasonal surface water Long narrow block	Pasture Dairy support



The endpoint of this step is a **resource chart** which describes the characteristics, strengths and weaknesses of your farm.



FOUR NUTRIENT BUDGET

Quantify farm nutrient balances using Land Management Units.

OVERSEER nutrient budgets are a standard component of good management practice in modern farming, ensuring continuous improvement through efficient fertiliser use and helping minimise nutrient losses from the farm.

Most farmers in Waikato need to use OVERSEER for nutrient budgeting and to understand what your modelled Nitrogen loss is. The dates you need to model vary between catchments.

Waikato Regional Council can provide specific information relevant to your catchment that sets out what Nitrogen requirements apply to your property.

Fertiliser representatives and some farm advisors can prepare nutrient budgets using OVERSEER.

It is important to have someone who is trained and certified in operating OVERSEER to ensure the results are valuable.

Your nutrient budget should be updated annually. The information it provides is key to understanding your nutrient management risks and opportunities.

Appendix two outlines the record keeping requirements that will ensure the completion of your nutrient budget is relatively straight forward.

Review the nutrient budget

1. Is nutrient loss from specific LMUs a risk which is not currently well managed? It is important to recognise that even if average farm nutrient loss is low, there may be blocks where it is high. These “hotspots” are common and if they are managed to the best of your ability then this should be explained in the following sections.
2. Is your nutrient budget up to date and do you meet the WRC nutrient loss requirements for your area?

Depending on how you answered the two questions above, there may be some actions to include in the following sections.



The endpoint of this step is your most current **OVERSEER** nutrient budget.

FIVE ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES

Demonstrate how you will manage environmental risks.

FEPs need to contain a set of actions that describe how environmental risks are managed within a business, including changes that will be made where necessary.

This section looks at meeting objectives for managing farm environmental risks.

You should use the following objectives here as the basis for meeting WRC's requirements.

Objectives

- 1. Nutrient management:** To maximise nutrient use efficiency while minimising nutrient losses to water in order to meet specified nutrient allowances.
- 2. Soil management:** To maintain or improve the physical and biological condition of soils in order to minimise the movement of sediment, phosphorus and other contaminants to waterways.
- 3. Wetlands and riparian management and stock exclusion:** To manage wetland and waterway margins to avoid damage to the bed and margins of a water body, avoid direct input of nutrients, and to maximise riparian margin nutrient filtering.
- 4. Land use and grazing management:** To manage and assess the appropriate land use and grazing management for specific areas on farm in order to maintain and improve the physical and biological condition of soils and minimise the diffuse discharges of contaminants.
- 5. Irrigation management:** To operate irrigation systems (if applicable) that are capable of applying water efficiently and management that ensures actual use of water is monitored and is efficient.
- 6. Biodiversity:** To maintain and enhance on farm biodiversity.
- 7. Pest management:** To coordinate an effective pest management strategy.
- 8. Offal pits, silage and effluent, runoff from stock yards, tracks, races and rubbish dumps:** To manage the number and location of these sources to minimise risk to health and water quality.
- 9. Critical Source Areas management:** To identify and manage the critical source areas from which N, P, sediment and pathogens are lost.
- 10. Any objective which is specific to the farm.**

Note: if collected animal effluent is part of your farm system—e.g. imported dairy or pig farm effluent—this will need to be included in your FEP with an objective to minimise environmental impacts of its use. Current management will need to be described and risks identified (e.g. runoff, leaching). WRC staff and workshop facilitators can assist with this if it is relevant to your farm.

Now complete the Environmental Objectives table starting on page 6 of your workbook.

The objectives need to be listed first, then under each one record the practices you employ to help you meet it and the evidence you could show to demonstrate this to an auditor.

Appendix one lists a large range of good management practices—use this for ideas. Examples of ways to demonstrate good practices range from visible evidence on farm to record keeping.

Every farm will have different issues and practices—if there is something relevant that you do to manage a risk which is not listed in the appendix, it should still be recorded.



The endpoint of this step is a completed table of **written objectives**—as listed above or modified for your local situation—with a list of current, relevant, good management practices under each objective.

EXAMPLE

Objective one—Maximise nutrient use efficiency while minimising nutrient losses (specifically nitrogen and phosphorus) to water in order to meet specified nutrient allowances.

What practices help you achieve objective one?	How can you demonstrate this?
<p>All fertilisers are applied in lower risk months (no N or applied in May–July, and no P applied June–September).</p> <p>Fertiliser policy is based on fertiliser representative’s advice, informed by annual OVERSEER nutrient budget and two yearly soil testing to transects.</p> <p>We leave a minimum 5m wide uncultivated margin along streams in winter feed paddocks. When grazing we fence this with a single hot-wire to prevent cattle access and maintain the vegetated strip.</p> <p>Soil temperature is above 7°C and rising, and pasture is at least 25mm high (1000kg DM/Ha) before nitrogen is applied.</p> <p>Certified contractor used for all fertiliser application, with calibrated equipment and GPS technology. No fertiliser applied directly into waterways.</p>	<p>Farm diary records fertiliser application dates, rates, soil temperature and rainfall.</p> <p>Proof of placement maps retained for all fertiliser applications in last five years.</p> <p>Annual nutrient budgets and fertiliser recommendations retained.</p>

Some common examples of practices to achieve the objectives include:

- OVERSEER nutrient budget prepared for farm and for each LMU—reviewed annually.
- Nutrient budget used in assessment of options for minimising nutrient loss and maximising nutrient efficiency.
- Technical advisor used to determine nutrient management policies.
- Stock excluded from all waterways and wetlands in accordance with WRC requirements.
- Culverts or bridges at stock crossings.
- Key sites (critical source areas) for phosphorus and sediment losses identified on map.
- Alternative sources of stock water in each paddock (e.g. reticulated water in troughs).
- Olsen-P maintained at optimum levels.
- No super-phosphate application in high-risk months (June–September).
- No May, June, July applications of N fertilisers.
- Nutrient allocation zone N loss limits meet local rules.
- Excessive N-fertiliser rates avoided (>50kg N/application or >150kg N/ha/yr (on pasture).
- Equipment used for fertiliser application is suitably calibrated.
- N applied when soil temperature above 7°C and rising.
- Stock moved off wet soils in winter.
- Soil testing/plant analysis programme.
- Afforestation of erosion prone areas or use of poplar/willow poles for erosion control.
- Stock class matched to soil type and land capability.
- Direct drilling or minimum tillage used in preference to conventional cultivation.
- Wider riparian buffers provided at low points to filter any run-off.
- Risks of leachate from silage pits identified and managed.
- Rubbish dumps and ofal pits located in areas where there is no risk of groundwater contamination.
- Weather forecasts and soil temperature monitored and used in irrigation decision making.
- Soil moisture monitored and used for irrigation decision making.

See a longer list in appendix one for further ideas.

Note: these do not apply to every farm situation but should offer a prompt.

SIX ACTION PLAN

You have recorded the good things you do in a way that will help you demonstrate good management.

This step is where you record the issues or opportunities you have identified to further improve your business. This may include changes to Land Management Units identified in section two.

This list of actions will be different for every farm; depending on your system, current practices and degree of environmental challenge. You might only have a short list of additional responses or you might have identified a number of opportunities to improve.

Use appendix one again for ideas. Note that good practices can be highly catchment and farm specific in terms of their relevance and practicality.

It is likely your progress will be measured against this list in the future through an independent farm plan audit—so make sure the listed actions are realistic.

It is important not to try and do everything in one year. Completing an FEP is an achievement in itself. The actions identified should be prioritised and handled as the business capability allows.

Consider actions listed in appendix one and use the action plan template provided in your workbook to draw up a list of additional actions. An example is shown below.

Review opportunities and environmental issues identified at each preceding step.

Consider your nutrient budget—specifically N and P loss to water and whether there is opportunity to reduce these. Is your nutrient budget up to date?

Ensure responses are SMART (**S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**chievable, **R**elevant and **T**ime-bound). This means using the list in appendix one for ideas but modifying what you write for your own operation to make it specific. Appendix four shows examples of specific responses.

Please refer to the Drystock Farm Menu in your toolkit for ideas on environmental management.

EXAMPLE—ACTIONS IDENTIFIED

Issue/risk	Significance (L/M/H)	Response	Timeframe	Responsibility	Additional benefits
Phosphorus loss and soil damage in winter feed paddocks.		Shift breaks towards streams instead of away from to maximise the runoff filtering benefit of the crop. Leave a vegetated buffer strip next to waterways in all winter feed paddocks—3m minimum width.	Starting with next Autumn sowing and ongoing after that—review the following year.	Manager	Help prevent soil compaction. Captures nutrients and minimises nutrient loss to water.
Ongoing problem with soil erosion on back hill.		Phone Regional Council for advice on which variety and order poles for next year. From next year, plant 40 poplar poles on back hill annually for three years.	2014-2017	Manager	Shade and shelter for stock.

SEVEN IMPLEMENT, MONITOR & REVIEW

Congratulations on designing a Farm Environment Plan specific for your farm.

Implement each response according to your timeline:

- Monitor and record all your achievements
- Remember to review and reassess each year.

Once your plan is complete, sign the document on page 22 of the workbook.



APPENDIX ONE

Note: these do not apply to every farm situation but should offer prompts

NUTRIENT BUDGETING

- OVERSEER nutrient budget prepared for farm and for each LMU/block
- Nutrient budget reviewed annually and revised if necessary
- Nutrient budget used in assessment of options for minimising nutrient loss and maximising nutrient use efficiency
- Use of technical advisor to determine nutrient management policies.

PHOSPHORUS AND SEDIMENT LOSS

- Stock excluded from at-risk streams with fences or other methods
- Culverts or bridges at stock crossings
- Key sites for phosphorus and sediment losses identified
- Alternative sources of stock water in each paddock (e.g. reticulated water in troughs)
- Consider strategic vegetated-buffer areas where runoff converges
- Vegetated riparian buffer strips maintained around waterways (intensely farmed areas)
- Olsen-P maintained at optimum levels
- No direct application of P-fertiliser application into waterways
- Use slow release P-fertiliser
- No super-phosphate application in high-risk months (June–September)
- No over-grazing of pastures prone to drying out
- Phosphate fertiliser application rates consistent with nutrient budget rates
- Fertiliser application rates based on advisor's recommendations
- Regular soil tests (specify frequency) undertaken as aid to determining P needs
- Plant analysis undertaken as aid to fertiliser needs
- Equipment used for fertiliser application is suitably calibrated
- Maximum fertiliser application rates set
- GPS technology used for precise application of all P fertiliser
- Cattle grazed on and off fodder block
- Straw bales placed in low spots to adsorb runoff from fodder crop block
- Strip next to riparian margins grazed last when break feeding winter feed crops
- Ensure runoff from areas of high animal concentration (e.g. yards, frequently used tracks and stock camps) is discharged onto land rather than into waterways
- Move troughs and gateways away from areas of high water flow
- Manage or retire bogs and swampy areas
- Provide deer wallows away from waterways
- Cultivate along contours rather than up and down slope where slope >3 degrees.

RUBBISH, OFFAL AND SILAGE

- Offal pits located in areas where there is no risk of contamination of groundwater
- Offal pits covered and or fenced—think of child safety and vermin
- Composting used for dead stock disposal
- Risks of leachate from silage pits identified and managed
- No runoff of leachate from silage pits to waterways including drains
- Farm rubbish dumps located in an area where there is no risk of contamination of groundwater.

NITROGEN LOSS

- No May, June, July applications of N fertilisers
- Nutrient allocation Zone N loss limits met (see WRC information sheet for local rules)
- No N fertiliser applications when heavy rain is forecast
- Avoid excessive N-fertiliser rates (>50 kg N/application or >150 kg N/ha/yr (on pasture; crops may be higher))
- Ensure other nutrients are non-limiting (maximise N-uptake opportunity)
- Undertake a comprehensive nutrient analysis using OVERSEER Nutrient Budgets
- N fertiliser application rates based on Advisor's recommendations
- N fertiliser application. rates based on industry crop models
- Deep soil N tests used as basis of N applications to crops
- Plant analysis used as tool to determine N application rates
- Equipment used for N application is suitably calibrated
- N application rates set to match growth cycle of pasture or crop
- Pasture is at least 25mm high (1000kg DM/Ha) before nitrogen is applied
- N applied when soil temperature above 7°C and rising
- N is not applied when soils are at field capacity as measured using soil moisture equipment
- N is not applied to severely compacted soils
- Cultivation practices and timing adjusted to minimise N losses
- GPS technology used for precise application of all N fertiliser spread
- When feeding winter fodder crops, stock stood off block for at least four hours
- Crop rotation designed to utilise residual nitrogen in soil, e.g. cereals following fodder crops.

SOIL AND EROSION MANAGEMENT

- Move stock off wet soils in winter
- Soil testing/plant analysis programme
- Heavy machinery restricted to specified pathways
- Regular checks for soil compaction undertaken for high risk soils
- Crop residue retained to improve soil structure
- Significant soil compaction managed through soil aeration
- Differences in soil susceptibility to compaction recognised and managed to minimise damage
- Space planted poplar poles on hill slopes at appropriate densities
- Retirement from grazing of severely erosion prone areas, particularly those with marginal production value
- Afforestation of erosion prone areas
- Use of containment structures for certain erosion types (e.g. debris dams)
- Strategic tree planting to protect key infrastructure from erosion (fences, tracks, buildings, public roads)
- Design or locate tracks, fences, etc. in a way that minimises the risk of erosion damage
- Engage a regional council advisor/officer or similar specialist for advice on erosion and soil management
- Stabilisation planting such as flaxes, small trees, willows to prevent stream bank erosion
- Contour fencing
- Reducing weight of stock on erodible country (e.g. replacing cattle with sheep or moving to a younger stock class)
- Direct drilling or minimum tillage used in preference to conventional cultivation in high erosion risk situations
- Regular checks for erosion from channelled runoff, (i.e. from wheel ruts, tracks etc.), and fast remedial action
- Eroding areas on the property identified and appropriate management applied
- Deer mobs separated to reduce pacing and erosion on fence lines
- Fence lines/corners planted to reduce deer pacing behaviour and erosion
- Areas of stream bank erosion are identified and controlled.

WATERWAYS AND BIODIVERSITY

- Refer to the B+LNZ factsheet on stock exclusion from waterways and the WRC information sheet on stock exclusion requirements
- Stock excluded from all waterways and wetlands in accordance with WRC rules
- Culverts or bridges at stock crossings
- Alternative sources of stock water in each paddock (e.g. troughs)
- Vegetated riparian buffer strips around waterways
- Approaches to stock crossings are managed to avoid runoff to waterways
- Drain cleaning is undertaken in a manner that minimises sediment losses
- Riparian margins are of sufficient width to adequately filter run-off
- Wider riparian buffers provided at low points to filter any run-off
- Minimum or no-till cultivation techniques used when high risk of run-off from cultivated blocks
- Runoff from stock tracks and races directed away from waterways or filtered through riparian buffers
- Riparian planting programme planned/implemented
- Permanently/frequently wet areas within paddocks are managed to avoid contamination from stock or fertiliser
- Legally protected wetlands on farm identified and protected
- Legally protected areas of indigenous biodiversity on farm identified and protected
- Weeds and pests within protected areas are managed
- Enhancement programme in place for identified areas of indigenous biodiversity
- Reticulate stock water.

IRRIGATION

New irrigation

- System designed with site specific knowledge of soil, climate and crop needs
- Independent evaluation of irrigation design undertaken before development
- System meets flow meter, flow rate, volume and area irrigated requirements
- All new irrigation infrastructure is installed in accordance with Installation Code of Practice for Piped Irrigation Systems (Irrigation New Zealand, January 2012)
- Post installation checks of application rate and distribution uniformity undertaken
- Commissioning tests show that system performs to desired specifications for: system capacity, application depth, intensity and uniformity and return interval.

Existing Irrigation

- Soil moisture assessed—detail method and frequency
- Decision rules used (i.e. no irrigation after 10mm rain etc.)
- Rainfall forecasts and soil temperature monitored and used in decision making
- Deficit irrigation used within soil moisture trigger points
- Crop irrigation scheduling model used
- Spray line shifts made to suitable plan (e.g. GPS on bike; follow map)
- Application to non-target areas is minimised
- System closed down if runoff and/or ponding occurs
- Rotation adjusted according to soil moisture status and rainfall
- Daily checks for excessive runoff/ponding and other irrigation problems
- Annual audit of system completed to identify efficiency improvements
- Audit upgrades identified in work plan with timelines for completion
- Application depth and uniformity checks pre-season, and through season
- Wetted width widened on outer spans on long pivots or on slopes
- System evaluation by certified evaluator 5-yearly
- Program to remedy problems in 5-yearly evaluation implemented
- Annual water use checklist completed
- Variable rate irrigation used to maximise water use efficiency.

APPENDIX TWO

RECORD KEEPING FOR NUTRIENT BUDGETING

Good record keeping makes use of OVERSEER simpler and ensures more accurate results.

Waikato Regional Council requires you to keep the following information:

- Identification of the land area of the farm
- A map or aerial photograph showing the different blocks within the farm/LMUs
- Annual stocking rate (numbers, types and classes) including a breakdown by stock class for each month
- A description of the farm management practices used on each block including (where applicable):
 - (i) Ground cover—pasture, crops, non-grazed areas (including forestry, riparian and tree areas)
 - (ii) Stock management—lambling/calving/fawning dates and percentages, any purchases and sales and associated dates, types and age of stock
 - (iii) Fertiliser management practices—types, quantities, timing, location and rates of application and details of varying procedures for different blocks
 - (iv) Winter management of cattle grazed off—including the use of feed pads, grazing off or standoff pads
 - (v) Crop management practices—area cultivated, method of cultivation, crop types, rotations, timing of sowing and harvesting, resulting use of crop, where and when it is fed out on farm or when it is exported and where to
 - (vi) Supplementary feed brought onto the farm—feed type, annual tonnage, dry matter content, feed quality, nitrogen content
 - (vii) Use of nitrification inhibitors and any other verifiable nitrogen leaching inhibitors.
- Note: Where any of the matters (i) to (vii) have not been implemented on a particular block then that should be stated.
- Copies of annual accounts to verify the above information
- Farm animal effluent, pig farm effluent, feed pad and stand-off pad effluent management including:
 - (i) Area of land used for irrigation
 - (ii) Annual nitrogen loading rate and nitrogen load rate per application
 - (iii) Instantaneous application rate
 - (v) Clean water irrigation in terms of areas irrigated, rates of water applied and irrigation systems used
- Copies of invoices or receipts for purchases of stock, fertiliser, supplements imported or exported.

APPENDIX THREE

OPTIMUM SOIL TEST VALUES

Target soil test ranges for New Zealand sheep and beef farms (New Zealand Fertiliser Manufacturers' Research Association Inc. and New Zealand Pastoral Agriculture Research Institute Ltd, 1994)

Soil Test	Ash	Sedimentary	Pumice	Peat
Target Olsen-P	20-30	20-30	35-45	35-45
Target soil test K	7-10	5-8	7-10	5-7
Sulphate-S	10-12	10-12	10-12	10-12
Organic-S	15-20	15-20	15-20	15-20
Target soil test Mg (pasture)	8-10	8-10	8-10	8-10
Ideal soil test Mg (animal)	25-30	25-30	25-30	25-30
pH	5.8-6.0	5.8-6.0	5.8-6.0	5.0-5.5 (0-75mm) undeveloped 4.5-5.0 (75-150mm)

APPENDIX FOUR

EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE SPECIFIC RESPONSES

MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING WORKS

- Replace 10 missing space-planted poplars on slip-prone slope in Big Hill paddock.
- Annual silviculture for the conservation tree block and two forestry blocks.
- Check fences and repair if necessary on two wetlands, the bush block and the river fences every six months.
- Annual check on the silt build up in the drains, four dams and the six silt traps. Bi-annually clear silt out and distribute back on to paddocks—rotate which paddocks receive it.
- In late summer, early autumn check all tracks and repair as necessary. Also check the two runoff diversion walls and repair any damage.

HILL COUNTRY EROSION

- Retire shady face reverting to scrub in Flax paddock. Afforest slip on Rough paddock to prevent further erosion.
- Space plant 50 poplars and 30 willows to stabilise hill faces above Main river.
- Space plant 20 poplars above main access track in Paddock 1 to protect it from future erosion. Plant a wood lot behind woolshed to stabilise bank and prevent damage to shed.
- Assess all tracks and other infrastructure in next 12 months to determine if any additional planting is required to protect it.
- Ensure all new infrastructures (e.g. tracks), including the new fence in Back paddock, are not going to cause any extra erosion by considering contour and soil type.
- Explore opportunities for drainage in the spring of Number 3 paddock.

WATER QUALITY

- Over the next 12 months, put up a one-wire electric along Main creek to keep cattle out. In the next three months, put up a stock-proof fence around the wetland area.
- In next six months scope out a water reticulation system for the five back paddocks. Implement over following six months.
- Complete 10km of fencing in riparian areas on either side of Main river.
- Fence the two runoff convergence zones (e.g. headwaters) on Main creek and Dog Burn.
- Ensure the fertiliser company and farm manager understand the avoidance of superphosphate applications if rain is forecast.
- Install four dams in Number 4 paddock and three in Number 6 paddock for trapping sediment.
- Investigate low solubility types of P-fertiliser before next application due and determine if this will work for the farm. If it will, work out if it is an affordable option.
- Install culvert in Bog paddock and a bridge over Dog Burn to prevent stock accessing waterways.
- Look at soil test results and determine if Olsen-P levels are at or below the optimum—maintain them.
- Speak to top-dressing pilot to ensure he is not applying fertiliser directly to water bodies.
- Adjust super phosphate plan to apply in April rather than June, July, August or September.
- Adjust fertiliser plan to reduce N-application rates from 170kg N/ha/year to below 150kg N/ha/year*
- Ensure the annual N-based fertiliser is applied in autumn and spring if necessary, but not winter.
- Site offal holes, dumps, septic tanks, dips away from water and leaching-sensitive areas.

** NB. Urine patches rather than N-fertiliser are the key source of N-leaching in most pastoral systems.*

WIND EROSION

- Assess cultivation practices and where possible move to conservation tillage on Back Flats where crop is used.
- Plant a shelter belt on River-Flat paddock. Carry out an annual check in autumn and repair any damage as required.
- Investigate plant species to stabilise the sand country in paddocks 7, 8 and 9. Consider if there are containment structures that may also help. Implement if suitable.

PUGGING AND COMPACTION

- Identify the high-risk paddocks when wet, and the low-risk paddocks when wet. Outline a policy to move stock prior to the high-risk paddocks getting wet and inform all staff of the policy.
- Install drainage in Number 2 and Boggy paddocks. Check drainage is functioning annually and repair any damage if necessary.
- Establish policy on soil conditions for cultivation. Policy will outline no cultivation when at-risk soils are wet and shiny (i.e. plastic).
- Develop and outline grazing policy residuals to all staff to ensure over-grazing is not occurring.

SEEK LOCAL OR EXPERT ADVICE

- Regional council officers
- Farm consultants/advisors
- B+LNZ Environment Extension Manager
- Workshop facilitator
- Fertiliser reps
- Universities and research
- Neighbours.

SEEK ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

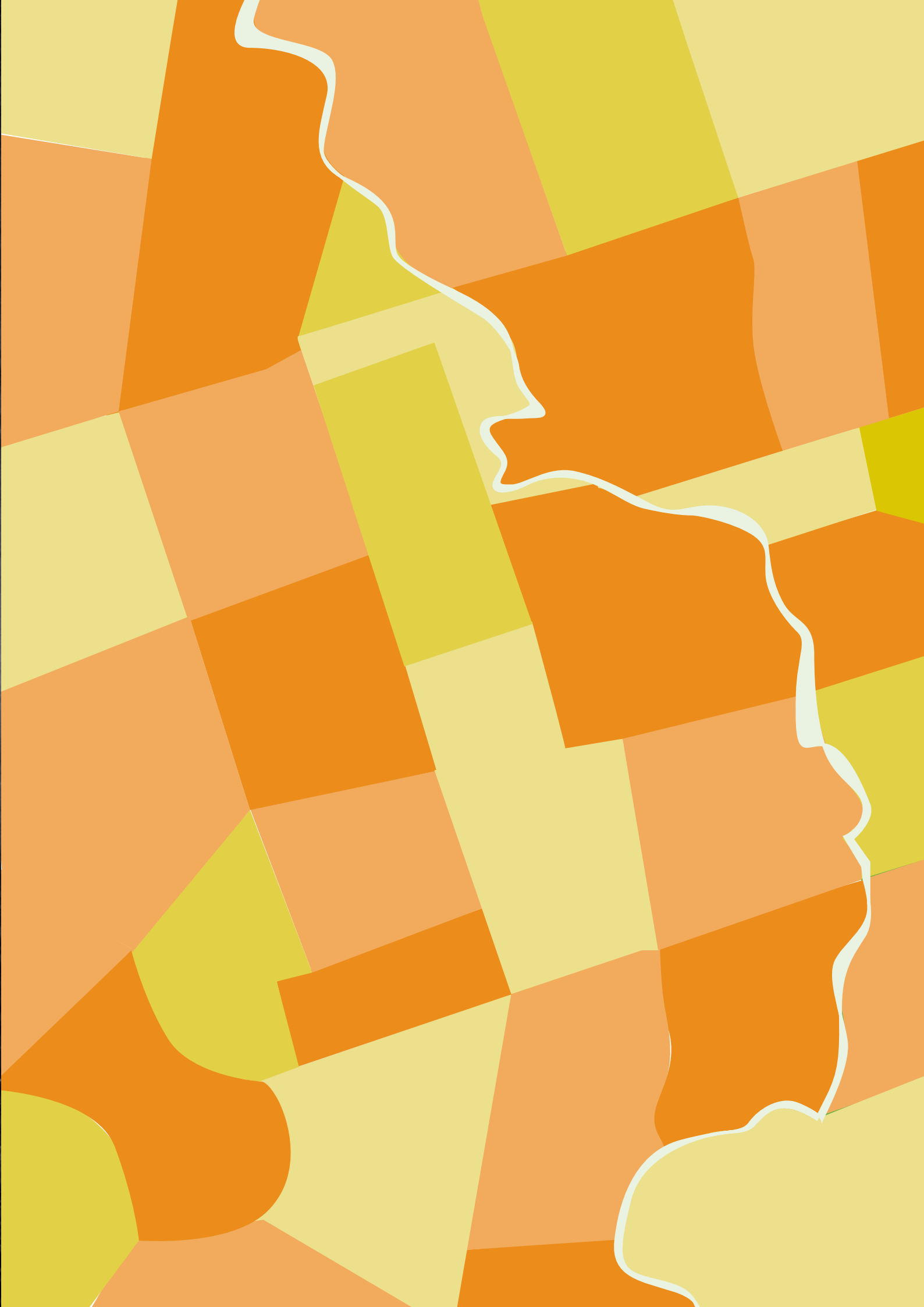
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