



Becoming A Certified Nutritionist to Develop a Feed Management Plan - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Feed Management Practice Standard 592

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Disclaimer

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This project is affiliated with the LPELC <http://lpe.unl.edu>



Introduction

This fact sheet has been developed to support the implementation of the Natural Resources Conservation Service Feed Management 592 Practice Standard. The Feed Management 592 Practice Standard was adopted by NRCS in 2003 as another tool to assist with addressing resource concerns on livestock and poultry operations. Feed management can assist with reducing the import of nutrients to the farm and reduce the excretion of nutrients in manure.

During the early 2000's the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) developed a memorandum of understanding "that provides an opportunity for qualified ARPAS members to become Technical Service Providers for NRCS programs in the category of Feed Management". Put simply, this means that consulting nutritionists are the most appropriate advisors to develop and implement a Feed Management Plan.

The NRCS Feed Management 592 Practice Standard

The NRCS Feed Management Practice Standard is defined as "managing the quantity of available nutrients fed to livestock and poultry for their intended purpose". The purposes of the 592 standard are:

- supply the quantity of available nutrients required by livestock and poultry for maintenance, production, performance, and reproduction; while reducing the quantity of nutrients, especially nitrogen and phosphorus, excreted in manure by minimizing the over-feeding of these and other nutrients, and
- improve net farm income by feeding nutrients more efficiently.

The ultimate goal of utilizing the Feed Management Practice Standard 592 is to develop a farm specific Feed Management Plan.

Becoming a Certified Nutritionist to Develop a Feed Management Plan

There are two options for becoming certified to write a feed management plan depending on whether one chooses to be an ARPAS (PAS or RAS) member and following option 1 or, choose option 2 where being a member of ARPAS is not required (see diagram 1).

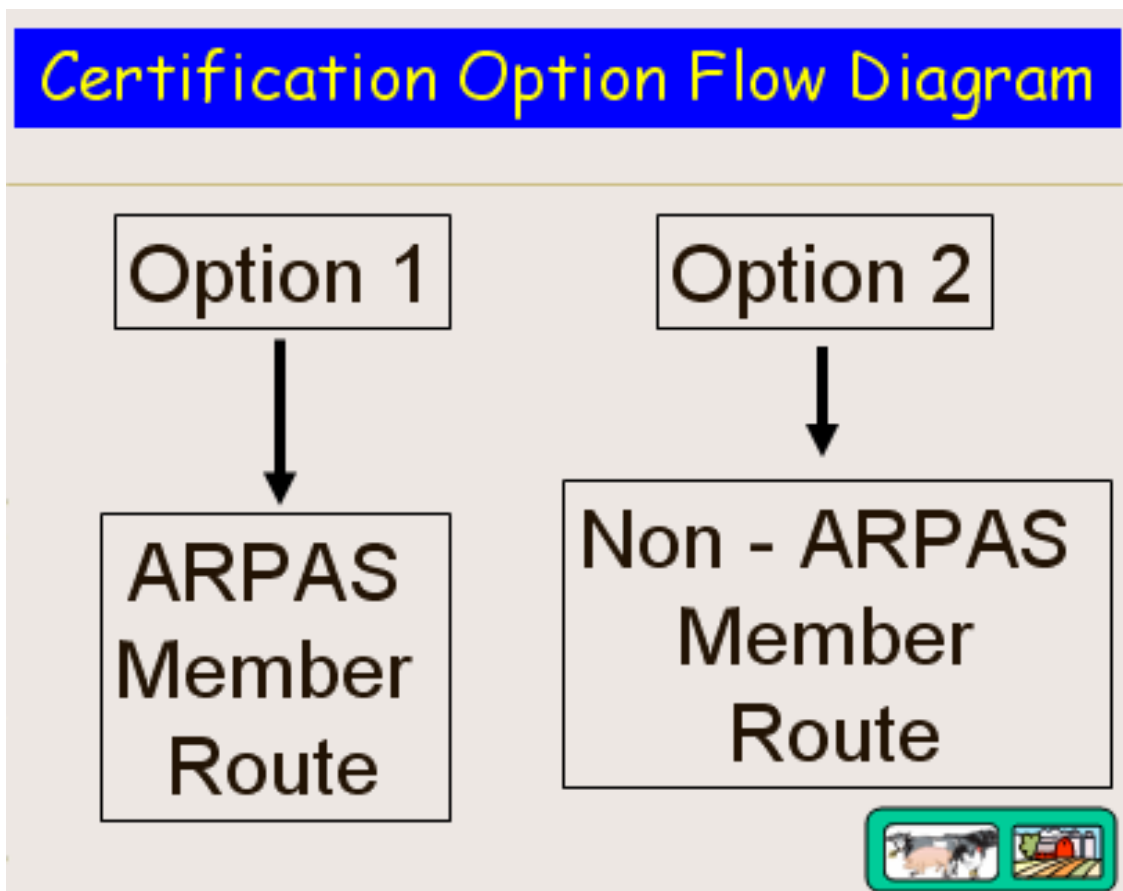


Figure 1.

Information about becoming certified can be accessed at <http://www.arpas.org/nrcs.asp>. The process under Option 1 for becoming certified with NRCS as a Technical Service Provider in the area of Feed Management is a multi-step process that should start with attending a Feed Management Workshop to gain

knowledge in the process of development and implementation of a feed management plan. Contact Joe Harrison at jhharrison@wsu.edu for a workshop near you. A second step is to pass the Feed Management exam for the species of interest. The exam will be available beginning in the fall of 2007 (see figure 2).

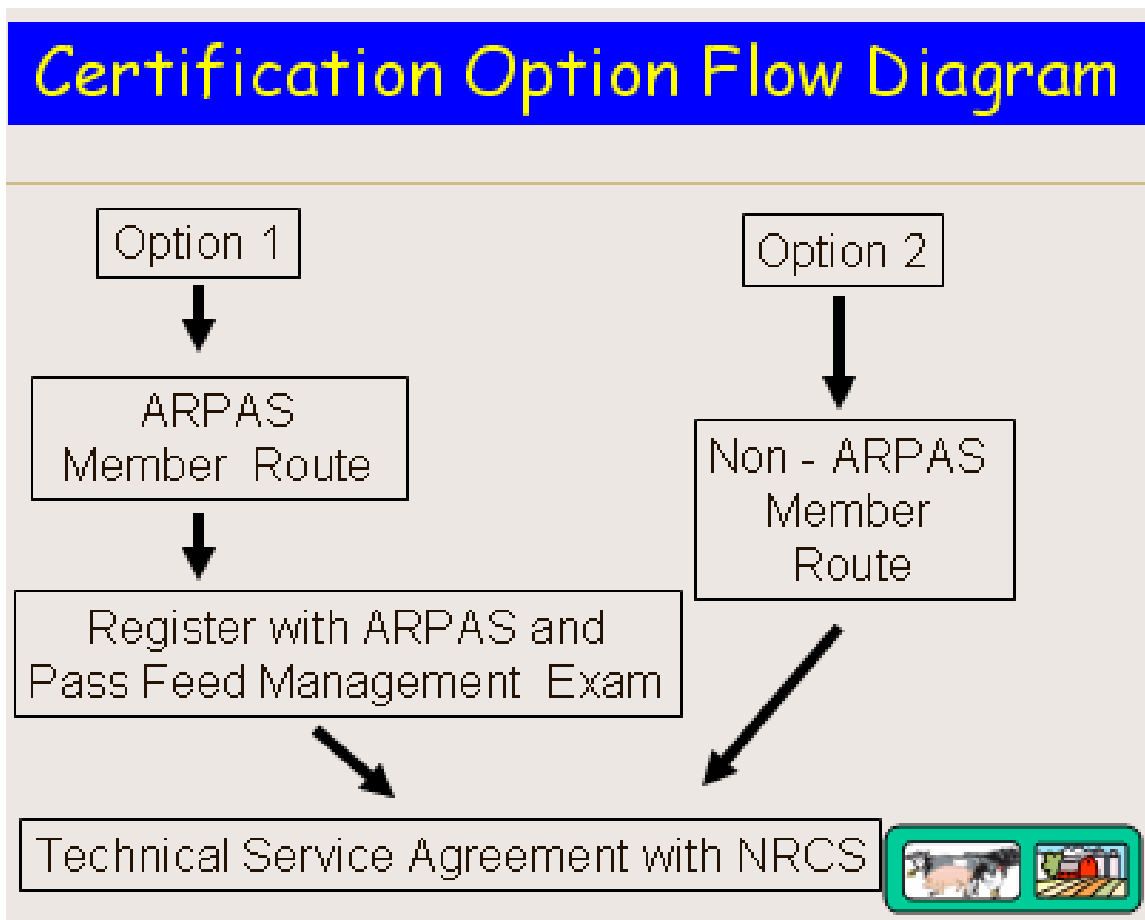


Figure 2.

The third step is to have completed a Feed Management Plan at two farms (figure 3).

The fourth step is to complete a NRCS Technical Service Provider Application form with ARPAS. This form can be found at

http://www.arpas.org/NRCS_TSP_APPLICATION_FORM.pdf

ARPAS will keep a record of those that have completed the NRCS Technical Service Provider Application form with ARPAS (figure 4).

Certification Process for Nutritionist

- Option 1 – Certification
 - Provide 2 references where you have used Standard 592
 - Certification as Professional Animal Scientist
 - <http://www.arpas.org/nrcs.asp>



Figure 3.

Option 1 - ARPAS Member

- Two Stage Process
- ARPAS will recommend interested and qualified ARPAS members to NRCS
- To gain final approval, each person will need to complete a Technical Service Agreement with NRCS.




Figure 4

The fifth step of the process is to complete a Technical Service Agreement with NRCS. The agreement form will need to be completed in the state that the work is done. The TechReg Step-by-Step guide can be found at <http://techreg.usda.gov> (see figure 5).

For those that choose not to be members of ARPAS the four steps are required to become certified to write a Feed Management Plan (see figure 6).

These include: showing proficiency in using techniques described in Feed Management 592 Practice Standard, provide two references where the 592 practice standard has been used, acquire 15 hours of CEUs in feed management related subjects every three years, and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the NRCS National Planning Procedures Handbook – Part 600.5, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning Technical Guidance.

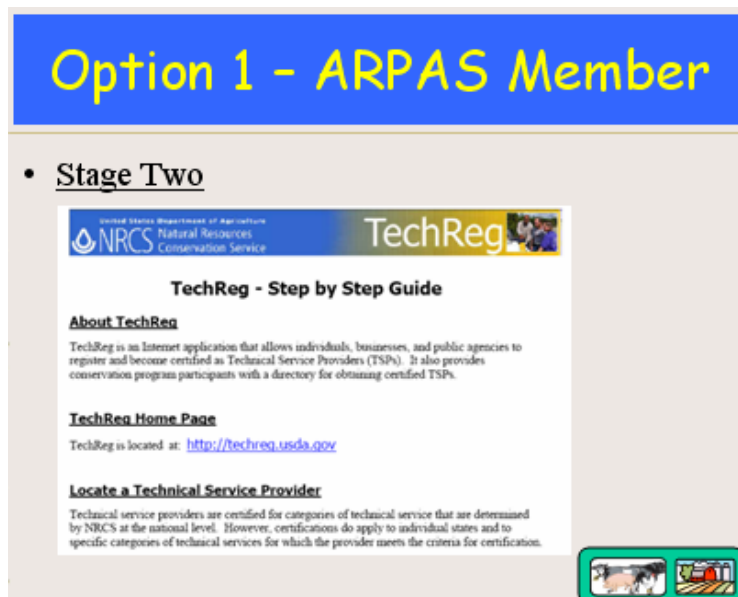


Figure 5.

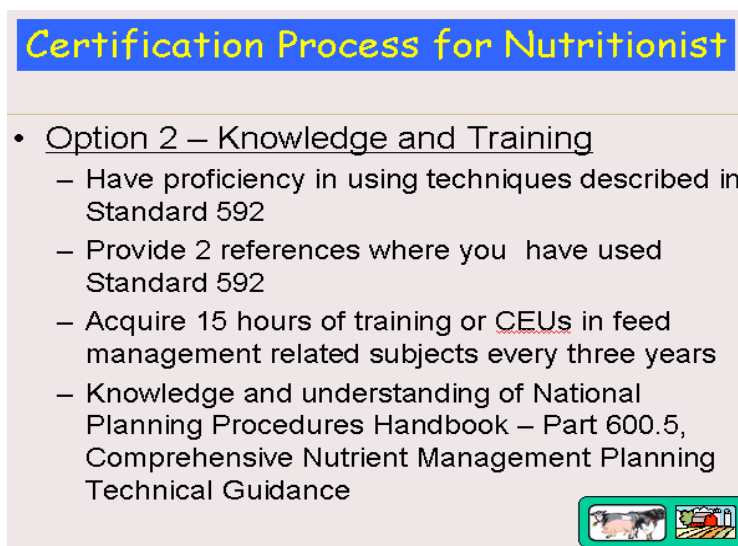


Figure 6.

Detailed information about training and certification in Feed Management can be obtained from Joe Harrison, Project Leader, jhharrison@wsu.edu, or Becca White, Project Manager, rawwhite@wsu.edu.

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