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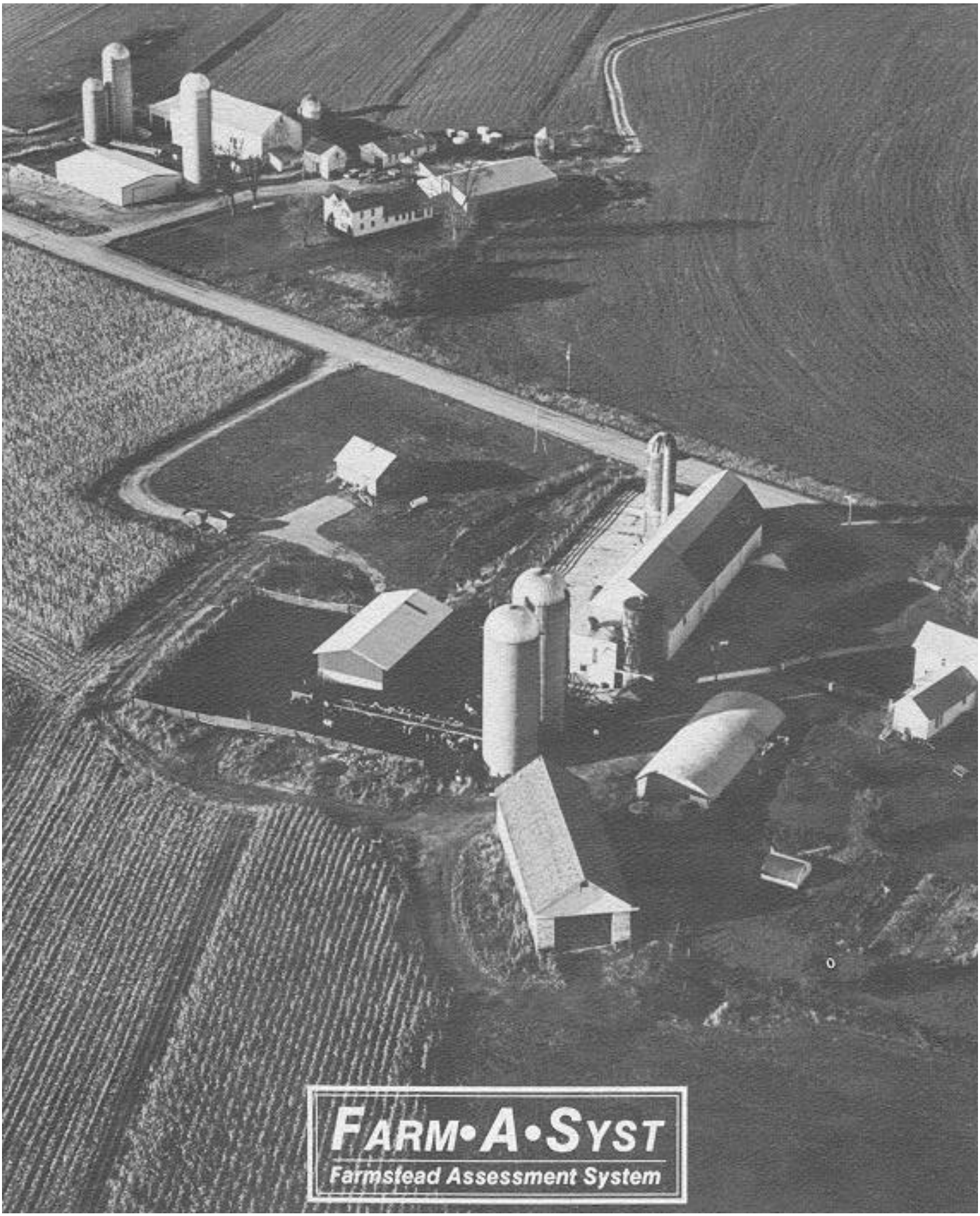

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❑ **Farm-A-Syst: Farmstead Assessment System** **$12.00**

This package consists of a series of twelve worksheets, ten bulletins and one program explanation sheet. The worksheets allow the producer to evaluate practices in and around the farmstead that can affect drinking water well quality. The bulletins provide suggestions about how to modify high risk practices and where to go for additional information and assistance.

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FARM•A•SYST
Farmstead Assessment System

Are your farmstead practices affecting your drinking water supplies?

Some agricultural practices can result in high risk to groundwater and your drinking water supplies, while others present low risk—or virtually no risk at all. Your drinking water is least likely to be contaminated if you follow appropriate management procedures or dispose of wastes in any location that is off the farm site. However, proper offsite disposal practices are essential to avoid risking contamination that could affect the water supplies and health of others.

The Farmstead Assessment System will provide you with accurate firsthand information about how your farmstead structures and activities, such as pesticide storage or manure handling, might be affecting your drinking water.

Some of that information will be reassuring, and some of it may encourage you to consider modifying some of your practices. Either way, you will have the information you need to do the best possible job of protecting the groundwater you depend on for your family's drinking water supplies.

What is the Farmstead Assessment System?

- The Farmstead Assessment System (Farm•A•Syst) is a series of 12 worksheets that will help you assess how effectively your farmstead practices protect your drinking water.
- The worksheets ask you about your farmstead structures and activities. Your answers will help you see how your farmstead practices might be affecting your well water.
- Along with each worksheet, you also receive 1) suggestions about things you can do to modify farmstead practices, and 2) places to go for additional information and help.

While field practices also have the potential to contaminate groundwater, the Farm•A•Syst series is not designed to address this concern. The specific focus of these worksheets is the potential effect of **farmstead practices and structures** on drinking water supplies.

How does Farm•A•Syst work?

Step 1: Ten worksheets help you assess the groundwater pollution potential of your farmstead structures and activities. You select the appropriate worksheets from the following:

#1: Drinking Water Well Condition
#2: Pesticide Storage and Handling
#3: Fertilizer Storage and Handling
#4: Petroleum Product Storage
#5: Hazardous Waste Management
#6: Household Wastewater Treatment
#7: Livestock Waste Storage
#8: Livestock Yards Management
#9: Silage Storage
#10: Milking Center Wastewater Treatment

(over)

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Step 2: A separate site evaluation worksheet (#11) helps you assess how soil and geologic features affect groundwater pollution potential on your farmstead.

Step 3: An overall evaluation (#12) combines the results of steps 1 and 2, allowing you to:

- look at each potential source of contamination in light of your particular site conditions.
- compare potential contamination sources to see where improvements are needed most.
- determine where to spend your time and money most effectively to protect the groundwater that provides your drinking water supplies.

You may need help in getting information about site characteristics on your farmstead. Otherwise, you should be able to complete the worksheets yourself. Plan on about 15-30 minutes to complete each worksheet you select. Worksheets #11 and #12 will take additional time, as will reading the management information provided with each assessment worksheet.

The goal of FarmŽA•Syst is to help you protect the groundwater that supplies your drinking water.

Information derived from Farm•A•Syst worksheets is intended only to provide general information and recommendations to farmers regarding their own farmstead practices. It is not the intent of this educational program to keep records of individual results.

FARM•A•Syst
Farmstead Assessment System

The Farmstead Assessment System is a cooperative project of the University of Wisconsin-Extension, Cooperative Extension; Minnesota Extension Service; and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region V.

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Project coordinated at Environmental Resources Center, School of Natural Resources, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison, in cooperation with Minnesota Extension Service.

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