

Phase 7: Allocation of Feed Space Acres

Sarah M. McDonald¹ and Jess Rigelman²

¹ USGS, Lower Mississippi Gulf Water Science Center

² J7 Consulting LLC

Watershed Technical Workgroup

December 4, 2025



Goal

Inform the workgroup on the feed space acres allocation methods update from Phase 6 to Phase 7 for a decision via email by December 18th



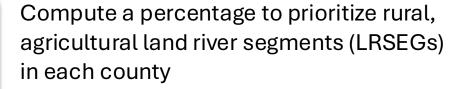
What does this mean?

Discuss how we plan to downscale county feed space acres to land river segments for modeling in the Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool (CAST)

Phase 6 Method Review

- Described in <u>Section 5.7.5 Maintaining Constant Land-River</u>
 <u>Segment Size of the Chesapeake Bay Program Phase 6 Watershed</u>
 Model Documentation
- Land use class error rates determine how many acres are available to accommodate feed space.
- Acres available = land use error rate * land use acres in a land river segment
- The acres needed for feed space is proportionally subtracted from these acres.

Compute Rural Fraction by Land River Segment (LRSEGs)





Adjust the rural percentage to reflect the % of animals in and outside of the watershed as reported by the jurisdictions



Methods for computing total feed space acres in a county are not changing, but are being separated into impervious and pervious portions



Downscale county feed space acres (impervious and pervious) to the LRSEGs using the adjusted rural fraction

Balance Feed Space Acres with Other Land Uses

Take feed space acres from Impervious Non-Roads, Compacted Pervious and Turf Grass



Compute Rural Fraction by Land River Segment (LRSEGs)

 Map rural Impervious Non-Roads (INR) and agriculture (AG)

Landscape





Rural Landscape

Mapped Impervious Footprint





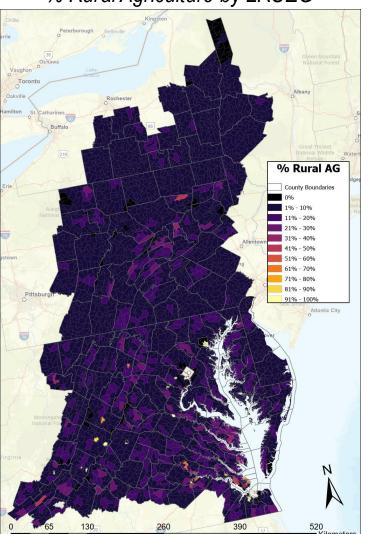
Rural Impervious Footprint

Compute Rural Fraction by Land River Segment (LRSEGs)

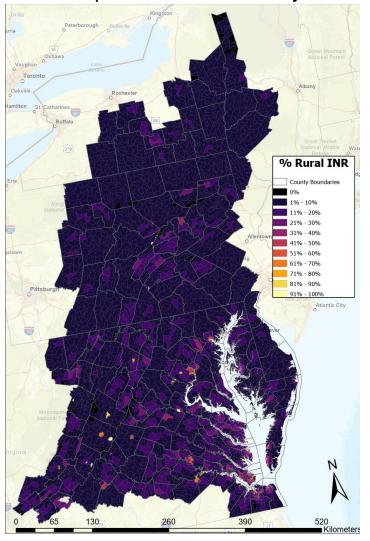
- Map rural Impervious Non-Roads (INR) and agriculture (AG)
- 2. Calculate % county rural INR and rural AG in each LRSEG

Phase 7 Method Proposal

% Rural Agriculture by LRSEG



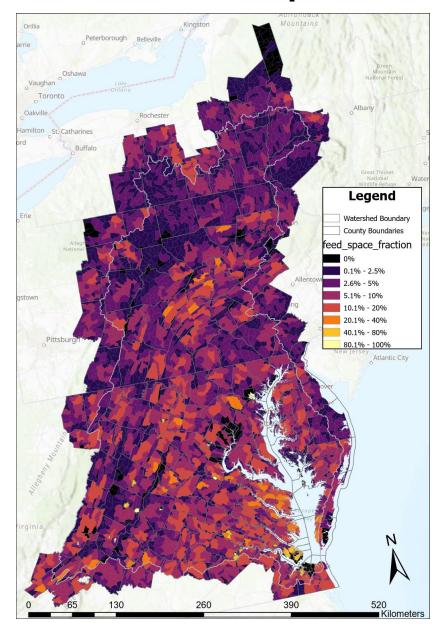
% Rural Impervious Non-Roads by LRSEG



Compute Rural Fraction by Land River Segment (LRSEGs)

- Map rural Impervious Non-Roads (INR) and agriculture (AG)
- 2. Calculate % county rural INR and rural AG in each LRSEG
- 3. Average the percentages to create rural fraction

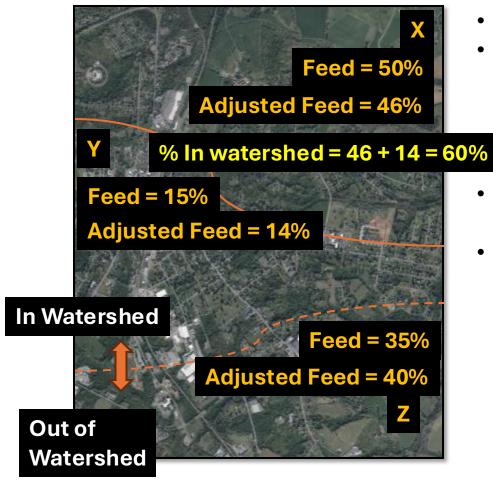
 $Feed Space Fraction = \frac{\% \text{ Rural Impervious Non-Roads} + \% \text{ Rural Agriculture}}{2}$





Adjust the rural (or feed)
 fraction to account, per animal
 type, for reported % of animals
 in watershed data

Phase 7 Method Proposal



- This is County A
- County A has 3 Land River Segments:
 - X, feed fraction = 50%
 - Y, feed fraction = 15%
 - Z, feed fraction = 35%
- X and Y are in the watershed and Z is outside of the watershed
- If goats are reported as 60% inside the watershed portion of County A, the adjusted fractions to apply to goats are:
 - X = 50% feed fraction * (60% goats in the watershed / 65% feed fraction in the watershed) = 46%
 - Y = 15% * (60% / 65%) = 14%
 - Z = 35% * (40% / 35%) = 40%

 $Feed \ Space \ Fraction \ * \frac{\% \ Animal \ Type \ in \ Watershed}{\sum Feed \ Space \ Fraction \ in \ Watershed}$



Calculate the portion of feed space that is impervious (roofed structures) and pervious (barnyards) for each animal type

% Impervious Feed Space =
$$\frac{Roofed\ Structures}{Open\ Air\ Barnyard\ + Roofed\ Structures}$$

- 2. Compute county feed space acres (no change from Phase 6 methods)
- 3. Separate county feed space acres into impervious and pervious acres per animal type

Impervious feed space acres = % impervious feed space * feed space acres

Phase 7 Method Proposal

Source Name	Open-Air Barnyard (sq feet)		% Impervious Feed Space
	MED	(sq feet) MED	
Beef (Beef	55.4	26.9	33%
Heifers)			
Broilers	0	0.85	100%
Dairy (Dairy	96.8	28.6	23%
Heifers)			
Goats	0	15	100%
Hogs and Pigs	0	13.6	100%
for Breeding			
Hogs for	0	9.7	100%
Slaughter			
Horses	147.4	147.4	50%
Layers	0	1.7	100%
Other Cattle	45.2	18.3	29%
Pullets	0	1	100%
Sheep and	0	25	100%
Lambs			
Turkeys	0	2	100%

Section 5.4.3 of the Chesapeake Bay Program
Phase 6 Watershed Model Documentation



1. Allocate county impervious feed space acres to LRSEGs using the adjusted feed (rural) fraction for each unique animal type

 $Impervious\ Feed\ Acres LRSEG = Impervious\ Feed\ Acres\ _{County}\ _*\ Adjusted\ Feed\ Fraction\ _{LRSEG}$

2. Allocate county pervious feed space acres to LRSEGs using the adjusted feed (rural) fraction for each unique animal type

Pervious Feed AcresLRSEG = Pervious Feed Acres $_{County}$, Adjusted Feed Fraction $_{LRSEG}$

Balance Feed Space Acres with Other Land Uses Unregulated Regulated DE

Phase 7 Method Proposal

- Take Impervious feed space acres from unregulated Impervious, Non-Roads (INR) land use *
 - 1. There are places where this isn't feasible due to MS4 coverage, in these cases, some land will come from MS4 INR

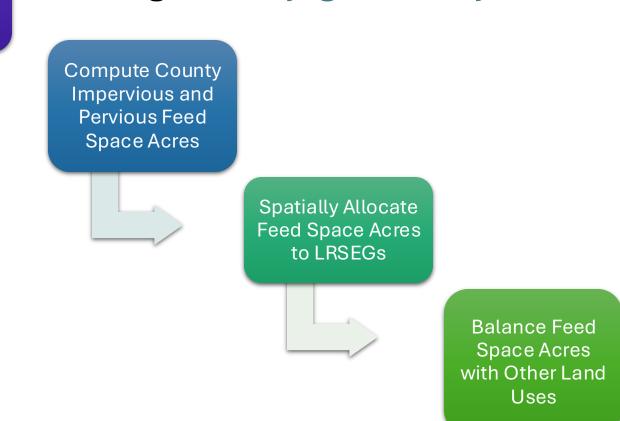
- 1. Take Pervious feed space acres from unregulated Compacted Pervious (COMP) and Turf proportionally
 - 1. There are places where this may not be feasible due to MS4 coverage, in these cases, some land will come from MS4 COMP and TURF

^{*} Taking feed space from INR was presented to the WQGIT in September

Need More Details or Clarification?

Sarah McDonald, smcdonald@chesapeakebay.net

Jess Rigelman, jrigelman@j7llc.com



Compute Rural Fraction by Land River Segment (LRSEGs)



