

Participatory Modeling of North Florida Dairy Farm Systems

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Dairy farmers in North Florida face increasing pressure to better monitor and manage nutrient run-off from their farms while remaining economically viable. This paper describes the process by which farmers and researchers collaborate to simulate monthly nutrient (nitrogen) and cash flows on these farms. These models, Dynamic North Florida Dairy Farm Model (DNRDFM), are calibrated and validated through an iterative process involving feedback from farmers, extension agents and other stakeholders. By providing farmers, policy makers, and other stakeholders with a more holistic view of current practices, common ground among them is more easily identifiable and collaboration is therefore fostered.

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