What YOU Can Do to Protect Your Source of Drinking Water

Livestock Yards & Waste Treatment/Storage

**DO**
- Clean livestock yards regularly (at least once per week).
- Build a short-term waste storage area to reduce application during inclement weather and during winter months.
- Consider composting your manure before applying to fields (this greatly reduces pathogens).
- Check the side walls of earthen waste pits to ensure they haven’t cracked or eroded. Repair any problem areas.
- Reduce the amount of water entering the livestock yard by creating terraces uphill of the yard and diverting roof gutters away from the yard.
- Install a runoff control system that collects livestock yards runoff, settles out manure solids and directs the remaining water to open fields or filter strips. You should store runoff for later land application.

**DON’T**
- Bury dead livestock on your property. Compost the remains (poultry and swine only), or have them taken to a rendering plant or incinerator.

Fertilizer/Pesticide Storage & Handling

**DO**
- Store pesticides/fertilizers over an impermeable (waterproof) floor, such as concrete.
- Install a back-siphon prevention device on your well to prevent reverse flow of chemicals into your water supply.
- Use returnable containers & mini-bulks and return them to the dealer.
- Triple rinse plastic containers immediately after use & pour rinse water back into the sprayer tank for your next load.
- Use pesticides with less potential to leach into the ground.
- Take advantage of the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Pesticide Collection Program. For more information call the Ohio Department of Agriculture at (614) 728-6987.

**DON’T**
- Apply more fertilizer than proper agronomic rates.
- Apply pesticides when conditions are most likely to promote leaching.
- Use pesticides near (within a few 100 feet) of your well.
- Rinse your sprayer in the same location every time. You should move the sprayer around or rinse in the fields.
- Put the hose in the sprayer tank.
- Burn or bury pesticide containers on the farm.

Petroleum Product Storage & Handling

**DO**
- Place above ground tanks on an impermeable (waterproof) pad with a berm.
- Measure the fuel level in the tank monthly (or more frequently) to help detect leaks before major problems develop.
- Have your tank tested periodically for leaks.
- Remove old tanks that are no longer in use.

**DON’T**
- Apply more fertilizer than proper agronomic rates.
- Apply pesticides when conditions are most likely to promote leaching.
- Use pesticides near (within a few 100 feet) of your well.
- Rinse your sprayer in the same location every time. You should move the sprayer around or rinse in the fields.
- Put the hose in the sprayer tank.
- Burn or bury pesticide containers on the farm.

Plumbing/Septic Systems

**DO**
- Have your septic tank inspected annually.
- Have your septic tank pumped at LEAST every five years.
- Use phosphate-free detergents.
- Take unwanted chemicals to hazardous waste collection sites.

**DON’T**
- Pour chemicals down the drain.
- Use toilets as trash cans.
- Use septic system additives or “cleaners.”

For more information about Source Water Protection: (614) 644–2752

Ohio EPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Printed on