

# 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

- X Bury dead livestock on your property. Compost the remains (poultry and swine only), or have them taken to a rendering plant or incinerator.



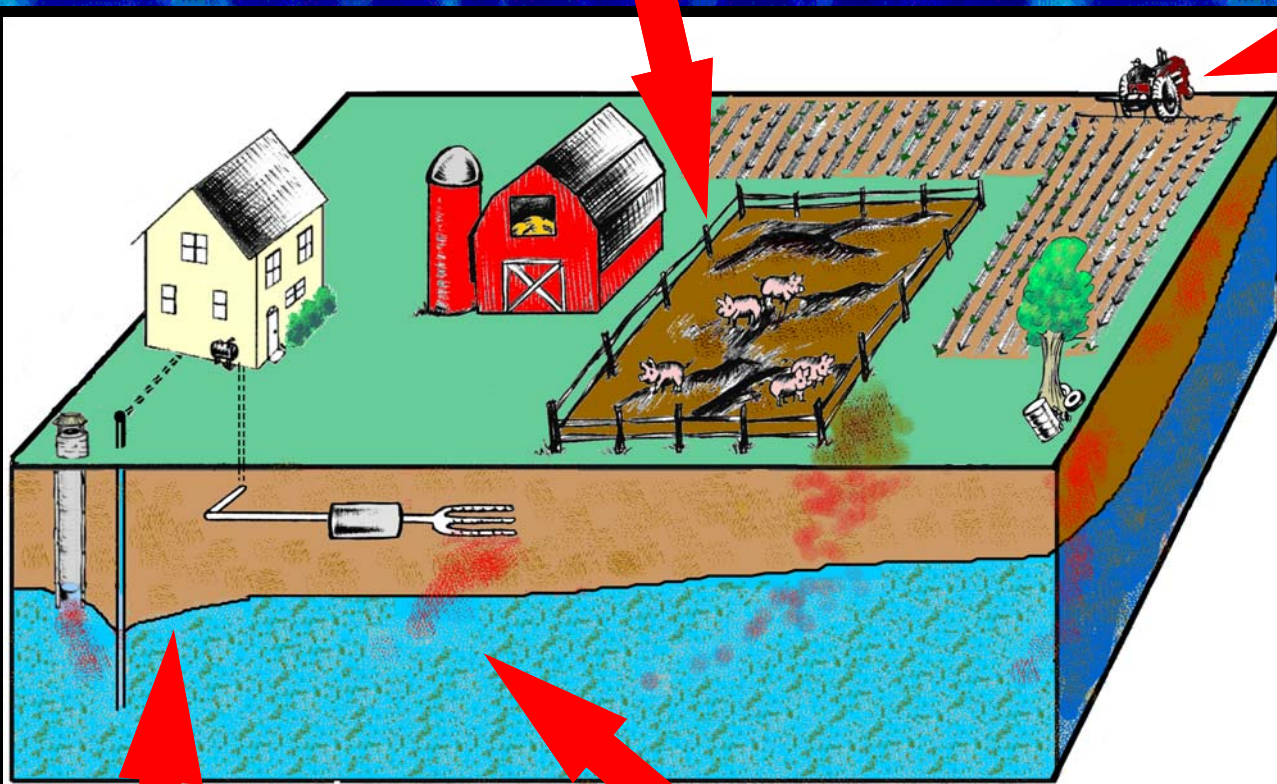
## Fertilizer/Pesticide Storage & Handling

### 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

- X Apply more fertilizer than proper agronomic rates.
- X Apply pesticides when conditions are most likely to promote leaching.
- X Use pesticides near (within a few 100 feet) of your well.
- X Rinse your sprayer in the same location every time. You should move the sprayer around or rinse in the fields.
- X Put the hose in the sprayer tank.
- X Burn or bury pesticide containers on the farm.



## Farm Equipment

### DO

- Recycle used oil, antifreeze and batteries at service stations.
- Reuse filtered waste antifreeze as water in other radiators.
- Contain oil and grease drips and use for future lubrication needs.
- Fix any fluid leaks on equipment.
- Clean up spills immediately.

### DON'T

- X Use old oil to kill weeds around the farmstead.
- X Pour used oil, gasoline, antifreeze, or other chemicals on the ground or down your sink/drain.

## 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.



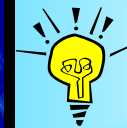
## Plumbing/Septic Systems

### 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

- X Pour chemicals down the drain.
- X Use toilets as trash cans.
- X Use septic system additives or "cleaners."



## Additional Water Protection Ideas

- Make sure your well has a secure cap and no cracks; periodically test your well for bacteria & nitrates.
- Hire someone to properly seal all unused water wells on your property.
- If you spill pesticides, oil, or other chemicals onto the ground try to absorb as much of the spill as possible. Do not wash the spill into the ground.
- Install silo caps & divert water away from silos.
- Horizontal trench silos should have concrete or compact clay floors.
- Report the location of all agricultural drainage wells to the Ohio EPA Underground Injection Control Unit (UIC). For more information and technical assistance call (614) 644-2752.
- Ideally agricultural drainage wells should be closed and replaced with other water management efforts that are less likely to contaminate ground water.

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

