

AGRICULTURE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

Top 10 Agricultural Best Management Practices for Increasing Farm Profits and Water Quality

1. Maintain a permanently vegetated buffer (preferably woody plants) along stream banks to filter sediment, nutrients, and pesticides by slowing runoff and increasing infiltration.
2. Implement no-till or conservation tillage to reduce erosion, runoff, and fuel and labor costs.
3. Use rotational grazing and keep livestock away from stream banks by providing alternate sources of water.
4. Plant cover crops to prevent erosion and enrich soil nutrients.
5. Implement pasture management practices such as rotational grazing to prevent soil erosion and nutrient runoff.
6. Get manure/litter and soil tested in order to be able to calculate an appropriate application rate. Use the sufficiency approach for nutrient application—feed the plants, not the soil.
7. Calibrate all equipment used to apply pesticides or manure/fertilizer to increase accuracy of application rate (reduces waste and saves money).
8. Create grassed waterways to convert natural drainage ways into wide, shallow channels that prevent formation of gullies, intercept runoff, and increase infiltration.
9. Construct protected heavy-use areas in places that receive heavy traffic from livestock to reduce sediment and organic loads in runoff.
10. Store and handle agricultural chemicals safely (in concrete-floored storage buildings) and recycle fluids.



WaterWorks!
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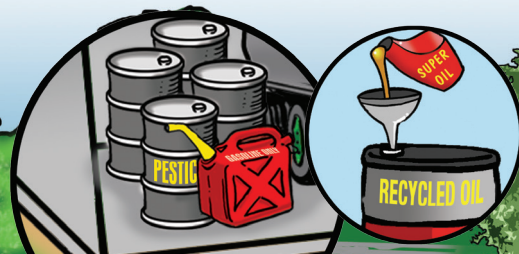
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**TENNESSEE
FARMERS'
GUIDE
TO CLEANER WATER**



Control feedlot runoff.



Provide proper storage, secondary containment, and recycling for chemicals and fluids.



Feed the plants, not the soil; get manure/litter and soil tested in order to be able to calculate an appropriate application rate.



Prevent erosion with no-till or minimum tillage practices.

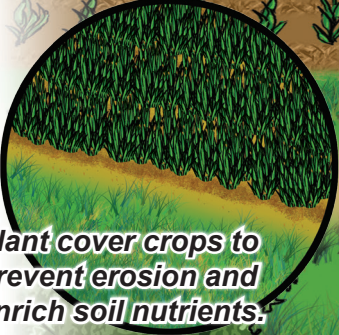


Use rotational grazing.

Keep animals out of streams and springs; provide alternative water sources.



Limit runoff and reduce water pollution with permanent vegetative cover, buffer strips, and grassed waterways.



Plant cover crops to prevent erosion and enrich soil nutrients.

For more information, visit the Tennessee Department of Agriculture at www.tennessee.gov/agriculture or call (615) 837-5225.

Clean water begins on the farm...

tennesseewaterworks.org  tnstormwater.org