



Storm Water Best Management Practices for Residential Farmers & Private Horse Owners

Did you know that there are two sewer systems?

- The *sanitary sewer* collects waste water from homes, business and industry from sinks, toilets and other outlets. It goes to the water treatment plant for treatment.
- The *storm sewer* collects runoff from streets. There is no treatment for the storm sewer; storm water goes into the ground and eventually into the ground water. Anything dumped or left in the street or gutter is pollution that can enter retention basins where children and pets play and from there can infiltrate and contaminate our ground water.

Animal waste can contribute to degraded water quality when it is not kept from entering the storm sewer system and percolating into the ground water. Nutrients in animal waste such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and bacteria can create pollution in our waterways and groundwater. They can also create gastrointestinal and other medical disorders in humans and animals.

How you can help:

1. Locate facilities such as barns and corrals in areas that drain away from storm drains or water ways.
2. Locate high use areas such as barns, corrals, and stables on higher ground that drain into vegetated areas. Vegetation can catch water and as it infiltrates, soil acts as a natural filter to remove nutrients and bacteria.
3. Install roof drains and gutters to direct runoff away from horse and livestock high use areas to reduce the amount of nutrients and bacteria impacted.
4. Use fences to keep livestock and horses away from waterways and other environmentally sensitive areas.
5. Store manure and soiled bedding in areas that are seepage free. Compost manure and bedding or donate to a local nursery or park.
6. When applying fertilizer and pesticides/herbicides, try not to do so before it rains and only use the prescribed amount. Consider alternatives to toxic pesticides/herbicides:
 - a. Bug zappers
 - b. Pheromone traps
 - c. Less toxic or “green” products.
7. Only buy the amount of pesticide/herbicide that you need. Dispose of extra as hazardous waste
8. Keep livestock and horses away from wet, muddy fields whenever possible.

These simple practices can benefit the environment as well as you and your livestock. Remember....

Only Rain in the Storm Drain