

# HOW THE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY CAN PROTECT OUR DRINKING WATER



## Fertilizer/Herbicide/Pesticide Storage & Handling

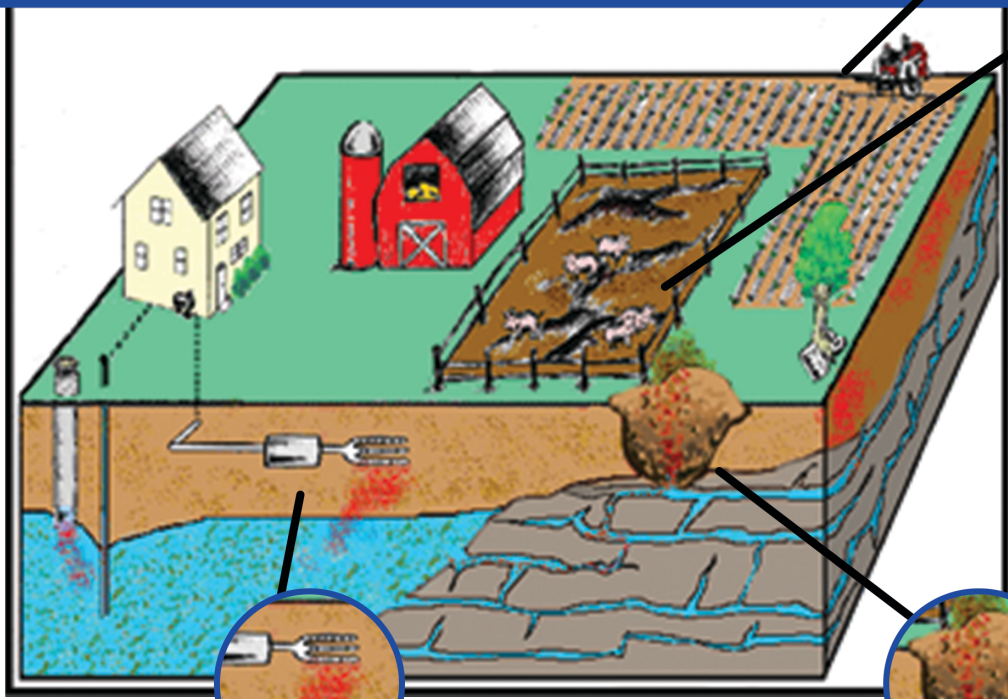
- ✓ Store pesticides/fertilizers/herbicides over an impermeable (waterproof) floor, such as concrete.
- ✓ Install a back-siphon prevention device on your well to prevent reverse flow of chemicals into your water supply.
- ✓ Use returnable containers & mini-bulks and return them to the dealer.
- ✓ Triple 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 contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture.
- ✗ Don't apply pesticides when conditions are most likely to promote leaching.
- ✗ Don't use pesticides near (within a few 100 feet) of your well.
- ✗ Don't rinse your sprayer in the same location every time. You should move the sprayer around or rinse in the fields.
- ✗ Don't burn or bury pesticide containers on the farm.

## Farm Equipment

- ✓ Recycle used oil, antifreeze and batteries at service stations.
- ✓ Reuse filtered waste antifreeze as water in other radiators.
- ✓ Clean up spills immediately.
- ✗ Don't use old oil to kill weeds around the farmstead.
- ✗ Don't pour used oil, gasoline, antifreeze, or other chemicals on the ground or down your sink/drain.



## Your Farm



## Livestock Yards and Waste Treatment/Storage

- ✓ Clean livestock yards regularly.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Utilize best management practices for handling stormwater runoff.
- ✗ 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.

## Plumbing/Septic Systems

- ✓ 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.
- ✗ Don't use toilets as trash cans.
- ✗ Don't Use septic system additives or "cleaners."

## Sinkhole Management

- ✓ Conservation tillage near sinkholes.
- ✓ Install buffer strips surrounding and near sinkholes.
- ✗ Don't farm within 100 feet of a sinkhole.
- ✗ Don't drain farm tiles or septic tanks to sinkholes.
- ✗ Don't dispose of trash or farm waste in sinkholes.



## Additional Resources

1. Contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture for information on conserving natural resources.
2. Work with the Soil and Water Conservation District on best management practices.
3. Contact the Ohio State University Extension Office in your County for the latest information on managing and protecting resources.
4. Contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to find out about available funding for conservation practices.

For more information about Source Water Protection visit us at [epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/swap](http://epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/swap) — or call us at (614) 644-2752

