The facts

- You have an environmental stewardship responsibility owning livestock in Ohio
- Your responsibility applies whether you have a large or small livestock operation
- The Ohio Agricultural Pollution Abatement rules started in 1979 and includes dairy, beef, hog, buffalo, sheep, goats, horses, alpacas, llamas, chickens, turkeys, ducks
- Animal waste in streams can cause stream fish kills or may have already eliminated stream life that contributes to algae outbreaks
- The State’s goal is to keep ‘clean water clean’ and manage and prevent polluted water
- The Ohio Department of Agriculture, ODNR Division of Wildlife, OEPA, and the Medina SWCD all have a roll to play in abating livestock related pollution in ‘waters of the state’
- Waters of the state include ground water to road ditches, from ponds to streams, from wetlands to wells, from springs to waterways
- Many livestock owners have taken measures to prevent animal waste sources from reaching ‘waters of the state’
- Best management practices (bmp) have been accepted and if you are using them correctly, you may receive some protection from complaining neighbors
- Runoff of bare exercise lots, feedlots, denuded pastures, or paddocks is not a bmp and is a violation. If a stream runs through this area you could be required to have a permit by ODA or OEPA. High phosphorous levels will need to be managed accordingly with more off-site scrutiny underway
- The Medina SWCD, a local agency, free of charge, will help you assess your livestock operation and help you plan corrective measures
- Downstream neighbors are not required to accept your manure laden runoff. You are required to keep it on your property
- Odors are currently unregulated but could be Litigated
- Fly problems fall under the county health department concerns
Do you manage your manure to be a nutrient for soil or a pollutant in the water?

Do you have any of the following challenges or situations?

- Feedlot runoff
- Bare lot runoff
- Milk house drains to water
- Silage leachate runoff
- Property perimeter storage
- Manure storage runoff
- Lack of manure storage
- Mud paddocks
- Manure shoved over ravines
- Livestock access to entire stream
- Too many animals on to few acres
- Manure piled along streams

If you answered no to all of these, congratulations! If you answered yes to some, contact us for assistance. Solutions may include such best management practices as: Storage, dumpsters, gutters, fences, diversions, crossings, new water supply or access, settling basins, seedings, vegetated buffers, tile, roofs over feedlots, operation and management plan, soil testing, all-weather heavy use pads, manure nutrient plan, manure composting, or mortality composting. These practices have standards and specifications based on the Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA, our partner agency.

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Livestock Stewardship

LET’S IMPROVE WATER QUALITY TODAY!!!!

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

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