

HELP is Available

New Hampshire's economy is dependent upon a healthy environment, and that includes farming activities. Assistance with site planning and conservation practices is available for all farmers and landowners with traditional livestock, horses, ponies, donkeys, mules, etc. Using BMPs helps to protect water quality and the environment, and promotes good relations in growing neighborhoods.

In 2001, the New Hampshire Legislature enacted an Agricultural Nutrient Management (ANM) grant program in the Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food (NHDAMF). The primary purpose of the ANM grants is to assist agricultural land and livestock owners with efforts to minimize adverse effects to waters of the state by better managing agricultural nutrients including commercial fertilizers, animal manures and agricultural composts. Applicants for ANM grants may apply for cost assistance of up to \$2,500. There is no match required, however, in-kind services, such as labor provided by the applicant, will enhance the application. Priority is given to projects that most clearly address protection of surface water and public drinking water sources. For more information on the ANM grant program, phone (603) 271-2753, or visit the web sites at: www.agriculture.nh.gov/programs/index.htm

Examples of ANM Projects

- Fencing livestock out of surface water
- Controlled wetland crossings
- Concrete pads or structures for manure/compost storage (as shown below)

continued...



Ready! A manure storage facility is installed on a farm in Brentwood and ready to be put to work.

Examples of ANM Projects, continued...

- Roofs for manure/compost storage
- Barn roof gutters/downspouts
- Pasture pumps or other watering systems as alternatives to surface water sources
- Vegetated buffers/divergence berms

Did you know...

- A 1,000 lb. horse can generate two cubic feet per day or 8-10 tons of manure and bedding annually.
- In 2007, over \$50 million was spent on horses in New Hampshire.
- It is estimated that there are more than 35,000 horses in New Hampshire, and that number increases each year.

Contacts and Information

NH Dept. of Agriculture: www.agriculture.nh.gov

NHDES: www.des.nh.gov

NH Farm Bureau: www.nhfarmbureau.org

NH Horse Council, Inc.: www.nhorsecouncil.com/bestpractice.htm

Rockingham County Conservation District: www.rockinghamccd.org

U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service: www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov

UNH Cooperative Extension: www.extension.unh.edu/Pubs/PubsAG.htm

Contact the Rockingham County Conservation District at (603) 679-2790, or your local county conservation district for additional information and resources.

Sponsors & Support

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Credits

Some information included was extracted from the NHDAMF and the Connecticut Horse Environmental Awareness Program



Produced by the Rockingham County Conservation District

HORSE MANAGEMENT

Protecting Your Water Quality



Manure Storage & Use

HORSES *On the Landscape*

Agriculture is a major influence on our state's character and quality of life. New Hampshire has excelled in protecting farm and forestlands. Today's agricultural activities are diverse and include specialty crops, farm products, horticultural and bulk commodity crops, traditional livestock and horses. Horse farms are important consumers of local hay crops and pastureland. Also, New Hampshire continues to raise and train standardbred and thoroughbreds for the racing industry. In addition to horse racing, New Hampshire has become a strong recreational horse community.

Pleasure horses now make up a large percentage of farm animals, and are an integral part of New Hampshire's economy and recreation. They also contribute a lot of manure, which, if handled properly, is a valuable resource.

Managing Manure: Contain, Treat, Dispose

Best management practices are available to horse owners with one or many animals that can improve and ensure good horse and environmental health. Some conservation practices include composting, contained manure storage, and proper barnyard runoff control.

By implementing a complete manure management system, horse owners and managers can increase forage production, lower costs, improve aesthetics and promote a healthier environment by protecting water quality.

Responsibly managing your manure:

- *promotes horse and human health;*
- *promotes clean stables and productive pastures;*
- *improves the stable's image with customers and neighbors; and most importantly...*
- *protects water quality in the watershed!*

The Watershed and You

Everything is part of a watershed – animals, birds, fish, plants – and humans. And what you do can make a BIG difference to water quality.

In any watershed, water always runs to the lowest point, such as a stream, lake, or river. It gets there by going down mountains, through marshlands, over city streets, or seeping into the soil and traveling under the ground.

Some watersheds have farmland and forestland, others have suburban lawns and urban areas, or a combination of all. How you manage your stables and land in your watershed affects the quality of stormwater runoff.

Poor land management practices can negatively impact streams, lakes or rivers as well as groundwater and can harm aquatic and wildlife habitats, domestic animals, and humans, too. During storms, contaminants in farm waste can be washed into rivers, streams or ponds while others may infiltrate through the soil and pollute groundwater and water supply wells.

Good horsekeeping means good environmental protection and health for our watersheds. Horse owners should be good stewards of the land and good neighbors to those who share our common water resources. Good stewards implement good manure, pasture and facility management practices. Please help us all be good stewards!

Best management practices offer alternatives for you to keep your watershed healthy and productive. Proper manure handling includes picking up manure from heavily used areas daily, storing it in a dry area, covering the manure pile and

composting. Other practices include fencing away from wet areas, diverting clean water away from the barnyard and rotational grazing.

Environmental benefits include protection of surface and groundwater, including your drinking water, and a healthier environment for horses and people. *Let's all work together to safeguard the watersheds we all depend upon!*



COMPOST – another good alternative

Composting is a great way to reuse what could otherwise become a problem downstream. Every effort should be made to recycle horse manure. Composting takes effort and time. Manure must be composted correctly to be used safely and efficiently as fertilizer for crops and home gardens. Connect with local composting facilities, to have manure hauled off to be composted. It is a reusable resource not to be ignored!

