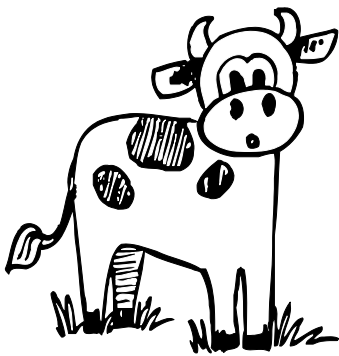
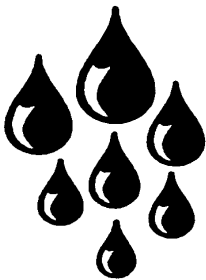




ASSESSING YOUR LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY OPERATIONS

PROTECTING YOUR WATER QUALITY THROUGH A HOME & FARM ASSESSMENT



WHY SHOULD YOU BE CONCERNED?

Livestock and poultry operations on your property can generate large amounts of manure. This manure can serve as a valuable fertilizer resource – incorporating animal manure into the soil provides nutrients and improves texture. However, when not managed properly, manure can contaminate surface and ground water with bacteria, other micro-organisms and nutrients. When livestock manure is concentrated, as it is in barnyards, animal holding areas, or feedlots, the risk of polluting surface and ground waters often increases.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

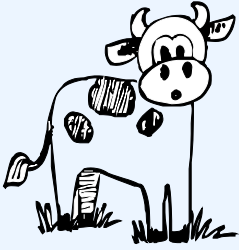
Use this worksheet to address questions you have answered **Yes** to or **do not know** the answer to in the **Assessing Your Livestock and Poultry Operations** section of your **Home and Farm Water Quality Assessment**. This worksheet will help you develop an Action Plan to establish practices that reduce the risks of contamination to your drinking water supply.

A PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM FOR VOLUNTARY POLLUTION PREVENTION

UVI Cooperative Extension
Service

VI Resource Conservation and
Development Council, Inc.

USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service



ASSESSING YOUR LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY OPERATIONS

- | YES | NO | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----|---|
| ☐ | ☐ | 1. | Do you have livestock and/or poultry on your property? (If NO , go on to next page K) |
| ☐ | ☐ | 2. | Do you house livestock and/or poultry within 100 feet of a water supply system (well or cistern) or water body? |
| ☐ | ☐ | 3. | Do you store manure within 250 feet of a water supply system (well or cistern) or water body? |
| ☐ | ☐ | 4. | Is your livestock and/or poultry facility located up-hill from a water supply system (well or cistern) or water body? |
| ☐ | ☐ | 5. | Do you bury dead animals on your property? |
| ☐ | ☐ | 6. | Do you spread manure on your gardens and/or fields without adding it into your nutrient management plan? |

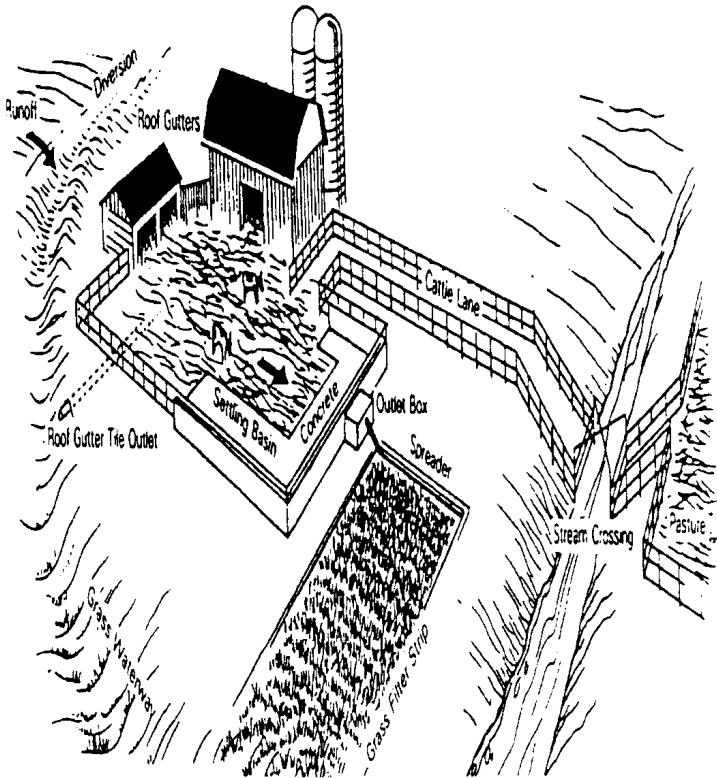
If you have answered **Yes** or **do not know** the answer to any of these questions, refer to this factsheet for valuable information that will help you develop an Action Plan to reduce the risk of contamination to your drinking water supply and surrounding surface waters.

1. DO YOU HAVE LIVESTOCK AND/OR POULTRY ON YOUR PROPERTY?

and poultry farms can pollute surface and ground waters with bacteria, other micro-organisms and nutrients.

Proper use of manures in gardens or on fields can reduce fertilizer purchases, improve soil quality, and reduce pollution risks.

If you do not have a manure management plan for your livestock or poultry operation, contact the VI Department of Agriculture, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), VI Conservation District, or Cooperative Extension Service.



2. DO YOU HOUSE LIVESTOCK AND/OR POULTRY WITHIN 100 FEET OF A WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM (WELL OR CISTERN) OR WATER BODY?

All livestock operations should be located at least 100 feet downhill from private water supplies (including abandoned wells) and 500 feet from public water supply systems.

If you have a livestock operation on your property you should be testing your water annually for bacteria and nitrate.

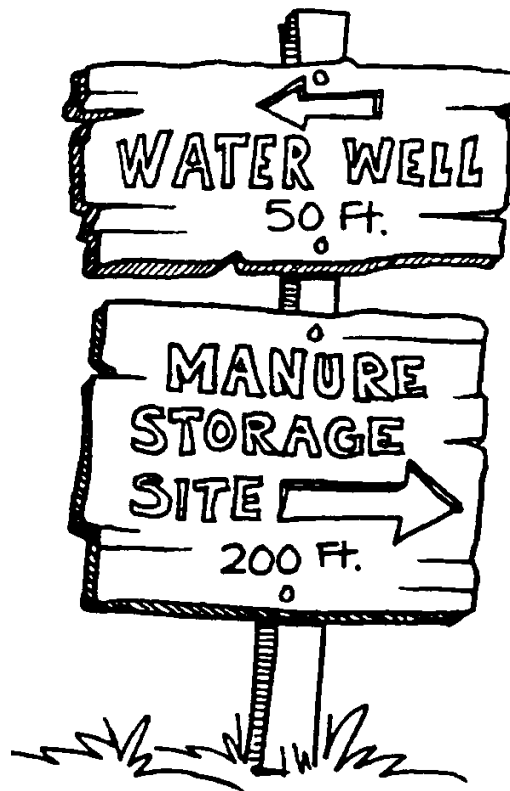


3. DO YOU STORE MANURE WITHIN 250 FEET OF A WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM (WELL OR CISTERN) OR WATER BODY?

Manure is generally stored in either liquid, semi-solid or solid form. Each of these can be stored safely, but require proper management to prevent water contamination. Contact the USDA-NRCS, VI Department of Agriculture, UVI Cooperative Extension Service, or VI Conservation District office for information on proper storage practices.

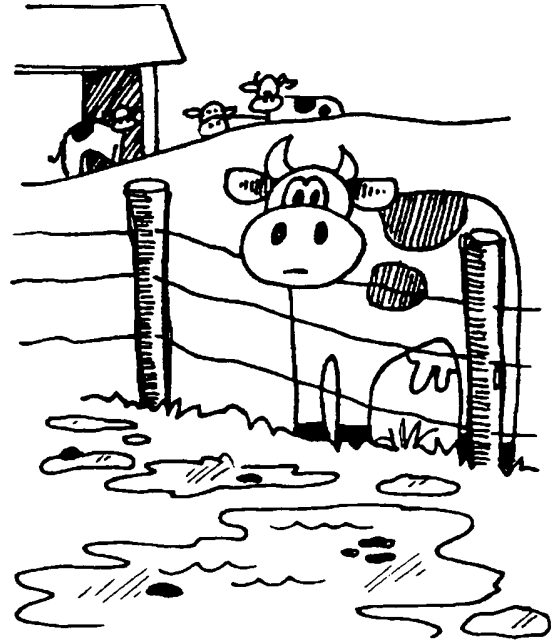
Of particular concern for water quality are existing wells that can provide a direct path for contaminated surface water to reach the ground water. Long distances between manure storage sites and your water supply are the best preventive measure that can be taken. Avoid manure storage within 250 feet of your well or cistern.

Storage facilities should be designed to prevent unplanned off-site movement of manure. Reducing the volume of stored manure with regular use of manure as a fertilizer can help to reduce pollution risks.



4. IS YOUR LIVESTOCK AND/OR POULTRY FACILITY LOCATED UP HILL FROM A WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM (WELL OR CISTERN) OR WATER BODY?

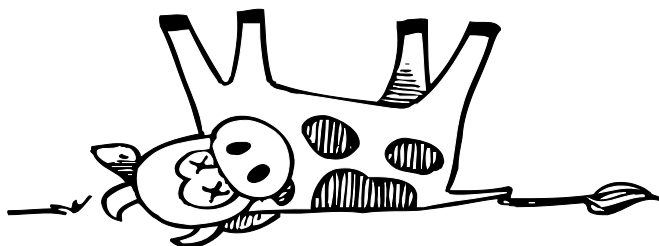
Runoff from livestock areas can transport animal manure to surface or ground waters and cause water contamination. Runoff is affected by slope, rainfall and maintenance of the animal facility. Your animal facility should be located downhill from your water supply so that runoff will not drain toward the water supply. Surface water runoff should be diverted around the animal facility so that it does not become contaminated with manure.



5. DO YOU BURY DEAD ANIMALS ON YOUR PROPERTY?

Dead animal disposal on your property is a potential water pollution risk. Decomposing animals can be a concentrated source of nutrients, bacteria and other potentially harmful micro-organisms.

Develop a plan for proper disposal of dead animals. Small animals can be best disposed of by composting. A rendering service is generally better for larger animals. Virgin Islands law requires that dead animals either be disposed of on your property or in a sanitary landfill. It is **illegal** to dispose of dead animals in public dumpsters.



6. DO YOU SPREAD MANURE ON YOUR LAWNS, GARDENS AND/OR FIELDS WITHOUT ADDING IT INTO YOUR NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN?

Manure should be treated as a resource rather than a waste product. Store manure in an approved storage system until it can be used to provide nutrients for your garden or crops. Credit nutrients from all manures in your nutrient management plan. Manure nutrient content can be estimated or tested. Contact the VI Department of Agriculture, USDA-NRCS, or UVI Cooperative Extension Service for further information.

Apply all manure with properly calibrated equipment. Make sure you maintain records of your manure applications.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

This assessment does not cover all potential risks on your property that could impact the quality of your drinking water. It is designed to: create an awareness of potential risks to water quality on your property; provide voluntary solutions to reduce pollution risks; and develop an action plan to protect your drinking water supply. Individual areas and states may vary in requirements on minimum standards for water supply protection. Always check with your local offices listed in the reference section of each worksheet before making changes to your water supply system. There are other, more detailed, Farm*A*Syst/Home*A*Syst programs available. If you have specific questions about protecting your drinking water, contact your local Extension Service Office, local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Office, or your local Soil and Water Conservation District Office. You may also contact the National Farm*A*Syst/Home*A*Syst Office at B142 Steenbock Library, 550 Babcock Drive, Madison, Wisconsin 53706-1293, Phone (608) 262-0024.

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If You Answered "Yes" to the Following Questions	What to Do	Who to Call	Other References	What You Did
Question 1,6	Develop a manure management plan that treats manure as a resource.	UVI Cooperative Extension Service (CES), VI Dept. of Agriculture (DOA), USDA-NRCS, VI Conservation District, or crop consultant.		
Question 2	Test your water for nitrate and bacteria contamination. Move livestock area if possible.	DPNR Division of Environmental Protection, Dept. of Health, or UVI Water Resources Research Institute.		
Question 3	Use an approved manure storage system.	UVI-CES, DOA, USDA-NRCS, or VICD.		
Question 4	Develop a runoff control system or move the feed yard.	UVI-CES, DOA, USDA-NRCS, or VICD.		
Question 5	Develop a dead animal disposal system.	UVI-CES, DOA, USDA-NRCS, or VICD.		

PHONE NUMBERS:

DOA: 778-0997 (St. Croix); 774-5182 (St. Thomas - St. John)
 DPNR-DEP: 773-1082 (St. Croix); 774-3321 (St. Thomas - St. John)
 Health Dept.: 773-1311 (St. Croix); 774-6880 (St. Thomas - St. John)
 USDA-NRCS: 692-9662, x. 106
 UVI-CES: 692-4080 (St. Croix); 693-1080 (St. Thomas - St. John)
 UVI-WRRI: 693-1063
 VICD: 692-9632 x. 101