

CONSERVATION PRACTICES FOR LIVESTOCK OWNERS

Adapted from *Conservation Practices for Livestock Owners* by Betsy Gilkerson, University of Minnesota Extension Service

THE BARN

Clean Water Diversion - Keep clean water clean. Redirect clean rainwater and roof runoff away from bare dirt and manure to limit erosion and contamination. (Ex. Rain Gutters or a berm around barn)

Manure Management - Properly store and dispose of manure to prevent nutrients from leaching and washing into water sources. Composting is an option.

Wash Area Runoff - Ensure wash water goes through a filter of tall grass before reaching surface water. Native grass and flower plantings are sometimes used. (Ex. washing animals and cars on the lawn.)

Critical Area Planting - Minimize excessive erosion by planting deep-rooted plants. (Ex. stream bank stabilization or gully repair)

Vegetative Border - Plant borders of vegetation around paddocks and exercise areas to slow runoff and limit erosion. (Ex. grass filter strips or low shrubs.)



THE PASTURE

Rotational Grazing - Divide pastures and rotate the animals through smaller paddocks, which limits over-grazing of some areas and under-grazing of other areas.

Filter Strip - Specifically plant and manage a strip of vegetation to filter sediment and nutrients from storm water before it reaches waterways such as creeks, lakes and wetlands.

Livestock Exclusion - Fence animals out of waterways and other sensitive areas including wetlands, septic drain fields and wells to form a filter strip. Separation distances of 30-50 feet are typical.

Grassed Waterway - A wide, shallow, grassed pathway for water to follow that reduces gullies and erosion.

Nutrient Management - Apply appropriate amounts of nutrients to your pasture to maximize yields and limit the impact on water quality. (Ex. test soils and manure to determine nutrient needs before spreading)

Invasive Plant Control - Control plants that are on the State Noxious Weed List. These plants choke out the desirable native plants. Buckthorn, Canada thistle, and garlic mustard are examples of common invasive plants in Hennepin County and Minnesota.

Stream Crossings - Designate specific areas with fencing and create stable banks with gravel or rock for animals to cross creeks or streams.

