

CONSERVATION TERMINOLOGY FOR LIVESTOCK OWNERS

Best Management Practice (BMP) – A structural or nonstructural method used to treat runoff and improve water quality including, but not limited to, such diverse measures as buffer strips, filtration rain gardens, infiltration, and gravel trenches.

Buffer Strip – A swath of vegetation between an area of intensive land use and a water body specifically designed to removed pollution. See also Filter Strip.

Clean Water Diversion or **Diversion** - A berm or channel used to redirect clean rainwater and roof runoff around and away from bare dirt and manure to limit erosion and contamination. (Ex. rain gutters or a berm around barn)

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

Dry Well – A deep covered hole acting as an underground storage facility for stormwater until it seeps into the surrounding soil.

Feedlot - Any animal confinement area where vegetative cover cannot be maintained and manure may accumulate. See also sacrifice area.

Filter Strip or **Vegetated Filter Strip** – A swath of vegetation or planting designed to remove sediment, nutrients, or pollutants from runoff by plant structures. See also Buffer Strip.

Green - the areas in the pasture the horses use for grazing; grass often grazed very short.

Impervious Surface – Any surface, manmade or natural, that cannot be easily penetrated by water.

Infiltration – The percolation of water into the ground

Infiltration Trench - A shallow trench designed to intercept and reduce surface runoff by holding it long enough for it to infiltrate.

Invasive Weed – plant that can naturalize and either cause displacement of native species in their natural communities or threaten natural resources or their use in the state.

Level Spreader – A designed device that is used spread out runoff that otherwise may become concentrated in a channel. May be made of clean gravel, treated wood, concrete, or metal. Used in conjunction with a filter strip to maximize the contact with vegetation

Manure Management Plan – A written document describing the management, storage, and disposal of manure to prevent nutrients from leaching and washing into water sources. Composting is an option; plan can be part of a larger Nutrient Management Plan.

Noxious Weed – Annual, biennial, or perennial plant the Commissioner of Agriculture designates to be injurious to public health, the environment, public roads, crops, livestock, or other property.

Pasture – Designated, fenced area managed for grazing.

Paddock – Term used interchangeably for pasture, feedlot, sacrifice area.

Pervious Surface – Surface, manmade or natural, that can be penetrated by water.

Rain Garden – A landscape feature that is planted with native perennial plants that is used to manage stormwater runoff.

Receiving Water – A body of water such as a wetland, stream, river, lake or ocean that receives storm water and waste water.

Rotational Grazing – A planned division of pastures and grazing management to maximize forage and minimize overgrazing and erosion.

Rough - the areas in the pasture the horses use to defecate and urinate; grass grows very long.

Sacrifice Area –A high-use area where horses are turned out after being confined or kept in to allow for pasture recovery. Typically bare and not managed for vegetation. Also called exercise lots, small paddocks, pens, or corrals. See also feedlot.

Sediment – Soil, sand, and materials washed from the land.

Settling Basin – An excavated basin where runoff from a feedlot is diverted so that sediment can sink to the bottom. Used in conjunction with a filter strip.

Swale – A wide, shallow channel or low bank, often lined with vegetation used to filter and direct water.

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

Watershed – A topographically defined area within which all water drains to a particular point.

Wash Area Runoff – Water from washing animals or vehicles. Should be directed through a filter of tall grass before reaching surface water. Native grass and flower plantings are sometimes used.

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.