

# What is a Watershed?

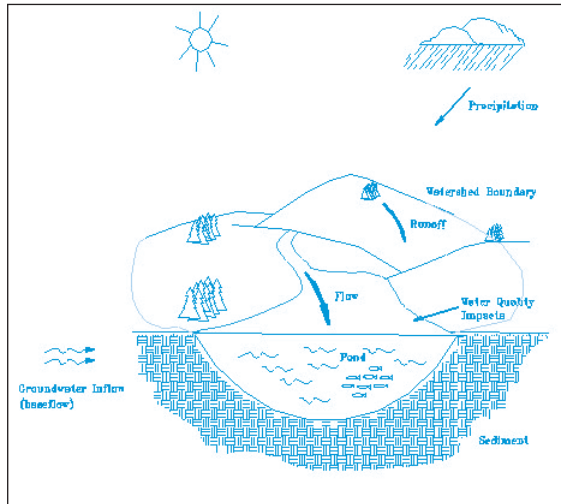
A watershed is the area of land that supplies water to a given stream, lake, wetland, or other waterbody. Farms and other agricultural businesses in the Pennichuck Watershed drain to the city of Nashua's and other towns' water supply.

## Water Quality

As water from rain or snow travels over the surface of land and through the ground, it can carry contaminants into a water supply source such as:

- Bacteria, viruses and disease causing protozoans such as Giardia and Cryptosporidium found in animal fecal waste;
- Excess nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen from chemical fertilizers, and harmful chemicals from pesticides and herbicides.

Keeping your water supply clean is important to your health and the health of others.



Source: Cooperative Extension Service, Michigan State University

### Be Informed and Prepared

- Do** educate yourself and your employees on proper handling procedures for pesticides and fertilizers.
- Don't** wait for an emergency to plan your response. Keep information on chemical names and emergency phone numbers at hand. This will help others avert a costly crisis.

## You Can Take Action To Protect the Water You and Others Drink!

For additional information please contact:

Rebecca McEnroe at  
Pennichuck Water Works (603) 882-5191

USDA Service Center:  
Rockingham County (603) 679-1587  
Hillsborough County (603) 673-2409

UNH Cooperative Extension Office:  
Rockingham County (603) 679-5616  
Hillsborough County (603) 673-2510

NH DES Grant Program (603) 271-7017

# Are You Polluting Your Own Drinking Water?



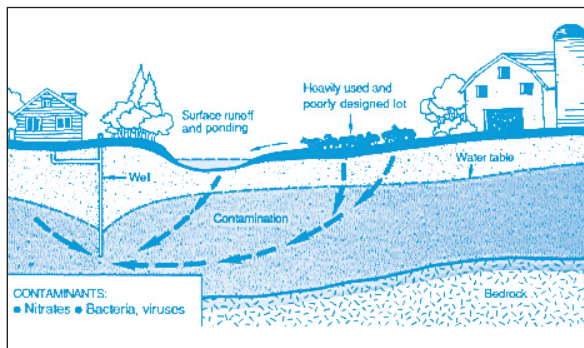
## Information for Agricultural and Landscaping Businesses

**February 2001 – Dairyman to Pay Nearly \$600,000 for Pollution** – A dairyman was ordered to pay nearly \$600,000 in penalties, attorney fees and court costs. The dairyman was growing his dairy herd beyond the capacity of his facilities. The penalty was related to discharges of manure-laden waste water off the farm and violation of water quality standards.

**F**arms, stables, landscaping companies, and nurseries can contaminate water sources. How can this happen, and more importantly how you can prevent it?

Livestock next to streams, fertilizers and pesticides can pollute. By keeping cows and other livestock away from surface water and changing a few daily activities, you can help protect your own health and that of others in your community. In addition you can:

- **Save money** by finding ways to reduce or recycle waste;
- **Reduce liability** at both on-site and off-site treatment, storage, and disposal areas;
- **Gain customers** who know that the business they choose is helping to keep the watershed clean; and
- Be a **good neighbor** by protecting community water supplies and public health.



Source: Cooperative Extension Service, Michigan State University

## What Can I Do?



Source: Metropolitan District Commission

### Separate Livestock from Surface Water

- Do** relocate livestock feeding, watering, and salt lick areas away from streams and ponds.
- Don't** destroy or disturb natural streamside buffers including trees and plants. This vegetation can act as a filter for contaminants washing off of the land and into the stream, help stabilize stream banks, and prevent erosion.

### Isolate Calving Areas

- Do** consider additional containment of calves and their manure since they can release much higher densities of *Cryptosporidium* than adult cows.
- Don't** locate calving areas near surface water.

### Safely Store Manure

- Do** locate manure storage facilities away from surface water or wells and control runoff from manure.
- Do** make sure your storage facility is large enough to hold all the manure, runoff water, incidental liquids, and direct rainfall.
- Don't** overfill manure storage structures or disregard leaks since this may run off in surface water or seep into groundwater, possibly with fatal results

### Control Runoff

- Do** control runoff from barnyards, feedlots, and manure storage facilities by using vegetative buffers and settling basins.

- Do** divert runoff away from areas containing manure.
- Don't** allow clean runoff to travel through areas containing manure.

### Safely Store, Mix, and Load Chemicals

- Do** store, mix, and load pesticides and fertilizers away from surface water in a secure area with an impervious floor such as concrete.
- Don't** store, mix, or load chemicals outside or on an earthen floor since spills can penetrate the groundwater more easily.

### Apply Chemicals Conservatively

- Do** apply pesticides and fertilizers using the minimum amount needed to be effective.
- Don't** apply chemicals before storms or when the ground is frozen since chemicals are wasted and can easily run off the land and into a surface water source.

### Contain Spills

- Do** provide a containment area around chemical storage and loading facilities in case of a spill.
- Don't** ignore small drips and spills since these can eventually reach surface and groundwater.

### Dispose of Waste Responsibly

- Do** bring waste materials to an approved disposal facility.
- Don't** leave empty waste containers outside since they can often dribble unused chemicals on the ground.

