

Preliminary Screening Quiz

Everything we do affects groundwater or surface water quality. Evaluation worksheets are available for farmstead management practices and site conditions. This preliminary screening quiz can help prioritize more detailed farmstead evaluations, which are available through the Pennsylvania Farm•A•Syst program.

I. Evaluating Water Supply System Condition and Location

If your drinking water comes from a public water supply, go to Section II.

- | YES | DON'T
KNOW | NO | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Do you have a well less than 50 feet deep? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Do you have a dug well or driven well, rather than a drilled well? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Was your well built more than 50 years ago? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Does your well casing extend less than 12 inches above ground level? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Is there a depression around your well casing? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Can you see any cracks or holes in your well casing? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Is your water supply downhill from any potential contamination sources (bacteria, pesticides, fertilizers, manure, or other pollutants)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. Is your water-supply system located closer to potential pollution sources than the local code specifies? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. Are there abandoned wells on your property that have not been properly plugged? |

If you answered “yes” or “don’t know” to any of the questions in this section, refer to Pennsylvania Farm•A•Syst worksheet “Water Well Condition and Construction.” This worksheet contains valuable information that can be used to develop an action plan for reducing the risk of contamination to groundwater. If you answered “no” to the questions, proceed to the next section.

Information derived from Pennsylvania Farm•A•Syst worksheets is intended only to provide general information and recommendations to farmers regarding their own farmstead practices. It is not the intent of this educational program to keep records of individual results. However, they may be shared with others who will help you develop a resource management plan.

II. Evaluating Household Wastewater Treatment Systems

If there is no on-site, residential wastewater treatment system on the farmstead, continue to Section III.

- | YES | DON'T
KNOW | NO | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Is your on-site wastewater treatment system less than 50 feet from your water supply system (well, cistern)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Is your on-site wastewater treatment system less than 100 feet from a water body (streams, lakes, etc.)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Has it been longer than three years since you had your septic tank cleaned out? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Do you pour grease, oil, or leftover household chemicals down your drain? |

If you answered “yes” or “don’t know” to any of the questions in this section, refer to the worksheet titled, “Household Wastewater Treatment System.” This worksheet contains valuable information that can be used to develop an action plan for reducing the risk of contamination to groundwater and surface water supplies. If you answered “no” to the questions, proceed to the next section.

III. Evaluating Pesticide and Fertilizer Storage and Handling Practices

- | YES | DON'T
KNOW | NO | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Do you store fertilizer products on your farmstead? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Do you store pesticides on your farmstead? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Do you mix, apply, or store pesticides within 150 feet of any water supply system? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Do you fill your sprayer tank with a hose that does not have an anti-backflow device or put the hose in the tank so that it is below the water line during filling? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Do you leave your sprayer tank unattended while filling? |

(continued)

YES DON'T KNOW NO

6. Do you rinse out your sprayer tank near your water supply system (well, cistern, etc.) or a water body?

If you answered “yes” or “don’t know” to any of the questions in this section, refer to the worksheet titled, “Pesticides and Fertilizer Storage and Handling.” This worksheet contains valuable information that can be used to develop an action plan for reducing the risk of contamination to groundwater and surface water supplies. If you answered “no” to the questions, proceed to the next section.

IV. Evaluating Barnyard Conditions and Management

YES DON'T KNOW NO

1. Is your on-site water-supply system less than 50 feet from your barnyard?
2. Is your barnyard facility located uphill from a water supply system?
3. Is your barnyard runoff allowed to flow freely without a collection system?
4. Do you scrape your barnyard less than once per month?
5. Do you have less than 25% vegetative groundcover on earthen exercise lots?
6. Are your barnyard and exercise areas frequently muddy?

If you answered “yes” or “don’t know” to any of the questions in this section, refer to the worksheet titled, “Barnyard Conditions and Management.” This worksheet contains valuable information that can be used to develop an action plan for reducing the risk of contamination to groundwater and surface water supplies. If you answered “no” to the questions, proceed to the next section.

V. Evaluating Milkhouse Wastewater Management

YES DON'T KNOW NO

1. Do you have milk cows and milking facilities on your farmstead?
2. Does your settling tank have a concrete, plastic or clay liner?
3. Is it more than one year between cleanings of your settling tank?
4. Do you apply your milkhouse wastewater to an above-ground or below-ground absorption field?

(continued)

YES DON'T KNOW NO

5. Is the wastewater discharge absorption area located within 150 feet of your water supply system?

If you answered “yes” or “don’t know” to any of the questions in this section, refer to the worksheet titled, “Milkhouse Wastewater Management.” This worksheet contains valuable information that can be used to develop an action plan for reducing the risk of contamination to groundwater and surface water supplies. If you answered “no” to the questions, proceed to the next section.

VI. Evaluating Your Stream and Drainageway Management

YES DON'T KNOW NO

1. Do you have a stream or drainageway flowing through your farmstead?
2. Is your vegetated buffer strip (forested and/or grass) less than 50 feet wide on both sides of the stream?
3. Do your livestock have access to the stream or drainageway?
4. Is less than 50% of the stream shaded by overstory vegetation?
5. Has the stream channel been altered or dredged?

If you answered “yes” or “don’t know” to any of the questions in this section, refer to the worksheet titled, “Streams and Drainageway Management.” This worksheet contains valuable information that can be used to develop an action plan for reducing the risk of contamination to surface water supplies. If you answered “no” to the questions, complete the appropriate Farm•A•Syst worksheets that were indicated by this Preliminary Screening Quiz.

PENNSTATE



College of Agricultural Sciences • Cooperative Extension

Development of this publication was supported in part by the Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under Special Project No. 91-EHUA-1-0061.

Where trade names appear, no discrimination is intended, and no endorsement by Penn State Cooperative Extension is implied.

Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences research, extension, and resident education programs are funded in part by Pennsylvania counties, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of Congress May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Legislature. T. R. Alter, Interim Director of Cooperative Extension, The Pennsylvania State University.

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. The Pennsylvania State University does not discriminate against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 201 Willard Building, University Park, PA 16802-2801; Tel. (814) 865-4700/V, (814) 863-1150/TTY.

© The Pennsylvania State University 1997 2M497PS