

Your water. Your decision.

What's happening in your community?

How is your community protecting its drinking water?

What agricultural practices are being tried in your area? Look below at some of the agriculture strategies used to protect lakes, rivers, and aquifers. Place a check next to every practice you think is common in your community.

Nutrient Management & Pesticides

- Using a soil test to determine the correct fertilizer rate
- Timing fertilizer/manure applications as close to crop uptake as possible and not right before rain or on frozen or snow-covered ground
- Incorporating fertilizer/manure into the soil soon after application
- Matching the type of fertilizer to the soil properties and crop needs
- Limiting pesticide use through integrated pest management

Buffers & Soil Conservation

- Planting or maintaining vegetation as a buffer at the edge of fields
- Planting or maintaining trees, shrubs, or tall grass between fields and water bodies
- Conservation tillage and crop rotation

Good Livestock Management

- Keeping animals and their waste out of streams, rivers, and lakes
- Fencing off and bridging streams, installing watering systems
- Properly applying, maintaining, and storing wastes
- Managing grazing to maintain plant cover in pastures

Efficient Irrigation

- Determining when and how much to irrigate by measuring soil moisture, calculating crop water use and being aware of the weather
- Investing in more efficient technology, such as drip irrigation



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Drainage Water Management

- Installing and maintaining controlled drainage, such as two-stage ditches, or constructed wetlands to reduce nutrients leaving fields

Septic Tanks

- Inspecting septic tanks regularly, every 1-3 years
- Pumping out septic tanks regularly, every 3-5 years
- Preventing hazardous waste from getting into the septic tank
- Avoiding damaging your drain field

Be Groundwater Aware

- Keeping a distance between fertilizer/manure, chemicals such as paints, thinners, oils, and pesticides, and a well
- Testing well water annually or more frequently
- Monitoring underground storage tanks and septic tanks for leaks or other problems

What other ways do you know that we should promote as a way to protect drinking waters sources such as rivers, streams, lakes and aquifers?

Now, look at those you did NOT check, and see our brochure for more information on how to try those as well. After all, it's your water.



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