

Education and Outreach for Source Protection

Agriculture, Nutrients and Pesticides

Audiences	Key Content
Owners and Operators of Farms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the Clean Water Act is to protect sources of municipal drinking water. • It is important that Ontario continues to adopt a multi-barrier approach to protect sources of drinking water. • Ontario farmers have demonstrated a longstanding commitment to farm practices that help maintain or improve sources of drinking water, through the implementation of best management practices established in Environmental Farm Plans and Nutrient Management Planning. • On-farm activities that can potentially affect drinking water include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Storage, handling and application of nutrients, commercial fertilizers and pesticides ○ Storage of Fuel* ○ Septic systems* (*Note: see additional pages for information on septic systems and fuel) • Farming activities located near municipal wells or drinking water intake pipes need to be carried out with awareness that they can be a potential threat to drinking water. • Farmers located near drinking water sources may be required to review and update their current regulatory approvals (e.g., Nutrient Management Strategies/Plans) or implement new management practices (e.g., risk management plan) to make sure their practices are up to date and do not put drinking water at risk. • In order to protect drinking water sources, farmers should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Know the location of drinking water sources near their farms and implement management practices to reduce the potential for contamination ○ Review or update their Nutrient Management Plans to make sure they include practices to protect drinking water sources ○ Complete and implement an Environmental Farm Plan

	<p>for their operation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keep current on evolving best practices
<p>Public Works and Private Businesses (e.g., golf courses)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the Clean Water Act is to protect existing and future sources of municipal drinking water. Under the Act, the application of nutrients, fertilizers and pesticides is identified as a potential threat. • The application, handling and storage of pesticides can be a potential threat to drinking water sources under the Clean Water Act. Pesticides may be used in green spaces to limit damage from insects, weeds and plant disease. To make sure the use of pesticides does not put drinking water at risk use best management practices to protect vulnerable areas.

RESOURCES

The following resources have further information on reducing risks to drinking water from activities related to agriculture and use of pesticides.

FARM SOURCE WATER PROTECTION	
Link	<u>Farm Source Water Protection Framework and Assessment Tool</u>
Author	Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition
Date Published	2014
Notes	A framework to assist farmers in assessing the risks to water sources on their farm.
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE BOOKS	
Link	<u>Best Management Practices Series</u>
Author	Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Date Published	Various
Notes	A series of Best Management Practice (BMP) books that cover affordable options to reduce the risk to water sources on the farm. Every BMP will help you understand an environmental issue in the context of your own operation or property.

OTHER INFORMATION

- The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
 - [Water Information Page](#)
 - [Pesticides in Ontario Page](#)
- The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
 - [Technical Guidance: Pesticides Act and Ontario Regulation 63/09 Municipalities](#)
 - [Pesticides \(home lawns and gardens\)](#)

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