

UNDERSTANDING AGRICULTURE



The purpose of farm conservation plans are to prevent deterioration of natural resources. Conservation plans combine farming practices and land uses that protect and improve water quality and soil. "Conservation plans" include Agricultural Erosion and Sediment, Manure Management, Nutrient Management and Conservation Plans.

PENNSYLVANIA FARM FACTS



Pennsylvania is first in the nation in number of farms and acres permanently preserved for agricultural production, currently totaling close to 553,000 acres.



There are about 33,000 farms in Pennsylvania's portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, about half of all the farms in the state.



Pennsylvania livestock produce approximately 30 million tons of manure per year.



SAVING ON CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS

DRY MANURE AND LIQUID MANURE are better for our streams than using chemicals. However, proper storage is a must if we want to reduce manure pollution from entering our waterways.



PROTECTING OUR BARNYARDS

DOWNSPOUTS AND GUTTERS ON BUILDINGS divert water around the livestock barns and shelters to help reduce runoff of manure pollution.



PRESERVE STREAM

BUFFERED STREAMS WITH FENCING AND VEGETATION keeps the livestock out of and away from the streams. It also slows down, soaks in, and filters fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and loose soil.



PROTECT STREAMS

STREAM CROSSINGS limit the space livestock can cross a stream which minimizes erosion and manure pollution. These crossings still allow for access to additional pastures and fields for rotational grazing.

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