



## FACT SHEET 3.2

# MAPPING YOUR HOBBY FARM STORMWATER PLAN

The Hobby Farm Stormwater Plan has two major components: a map showing how hobby farm activities are arranged on your property, and an operational plan that tells how you plan to manage the farm to prevent stormwater impacts.

We recommend that you prepare a plan using a base map of your property. This map will be helpful to you if you need to apply for any permits under state and local regulations. More importantly, it will help you think about how to arrange farming activities on your property to minimize and manage stormwater impacts and even deal with emergencies. You will want to use this mapped plan of your hobby farm to help you locate farm activities away from streams, ponds, wetlands, and other water resources and identify where you need vegetated buffers or other barriers or best management practices to prevent unwanted impacts to those water resources.

To complete this plan, you will need to have reviewed Section 2 of this handbook, to have an understanding of important issues related to stormwater, the regulations that might affect your farm, and the characteristics of your farm. Once you have reviewed those and prepared a map of your farm's existing conditions (see Checklist 3A), you should add information to the map to develop your Hobby Farm Stormwater Plan as described below.

## Required regulatory buffers and setbacks

You should review the “base map” of existing conditions you prepared as described in Fact Sheet 3.1 and Checklist 3A and make sure you have shown all regulated water resources on or near your property and related buffer zones and setbacks. Please make sure you understand what activities may occur within the buffer zones and setbacks - if you are not sure, please re-visit the municipal offices and staff described in Fact Sheets 2.4 and 2.5 to make sure you understand how state and local regulations affect your Hobby Farm.

## Preliminary layout of farming activities and supporting facilities

Use your base map, together with your knowledge of the buffer zone and setback requirements, to designate locations and the general layout of the activities you want to include in your Hobby Farm. You should sketch proposed features on your map to answer the following questions.

Keep in mind that your initial sketch may need to be modified as you consider other mapping steps outlined below - so this first plan is a preliminary sketch of how your hobby farm will be organized or improved.



## Cultivated Areas

- What areas will you plant (row crops, vineyards, orchards, etc.)?
- How do you plan to provide water for growing crops? If you plan an irrigation system, where is the water supply?
- How will water be conveyed from the supply to your crops?

## Animal and Livestock Facilities

- What areas will you use as pastures for livestock or other animals?
- Where will you provide shelter?
- How will you provide water?
- Where will you store or compost manure?

## Buildings

- Will you use existing buildings to support your farming activities? Will this use require changes to the building to make it suitable for this purpose?
- Do you propose new buildings, and where should they be located?

## Storage and Service Areas

- Where will you store and service equipment used for your farm?
- Where will you store and prepare general supplies, fertilizers, other agricultural chemicals (herbicides, pesticides, etc.)?

## Utilities

- How will you supply water?
- How will you collect and treat wastewater?
- Where will you need electrical power and other cable utilities (e.g., telephone, TV cable, internet)?
- Will you need a natural gas pipeline extension or other gas supply?

## Solid Waste

- How will you collect, store, and dispose of solid waste (e.g. trash) from your hobby farm?
- Will you compost material on your hobby farm?
- How will you manage manure on your site?

## Access

- How will you provide access for all of the facilities and activities that you have mapped?
- Which of your access ways will be paved?
- For access ways that are not paved, how will they be surfaced to adequately support proposed equipment and to prevent erosion?

## NEXT STEPS

Once you have a preliminary layout of your farm activities and facilities, the next step in planning a Stormwater-Friendly Hobby Farm involves the selection of Best Management and good housekeeping practices to help you prevent stormwater impacts from your farm activities. As you select these practices and add them to your plan, you may need to refine the location and the space occupied by your farm activities so that farming and stormwater management fit together on your site. Doing this will help you become a hobby farmer with water quality in mind.