



CHECKLIST 5A

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT FOR WATER QUALITY

Use the following questions to help guide your hobby farm animal management decisions:

1. Does your municipality have local bylaws or regulations that limit the number of animals per acre or require a certain acreage per animal?

YES NO

If YES, list the applicable restrictions,

2. Does your farm utilize pasture for feed?

YES NO

If YES, is the size of your pasture within the recommended guideline of one to two acres for each 1,000 pounds of livestock? Use the guide below.

Recommended Pasture Size (by Animal Type)

Your Pasture Size

1 horse or cow per 1-2 acres

2 small ponies per 1-2 acres

4-6 sheep or goats per acre

2-3 llamas per acre

4-6 alpacas per acre

2-5 pigs per acre

3. If you answered YES to question #2, do you follow these recommended practices? (check selections that apply)

Practice rotational grazing to give pastures a rest and avoid over-grazing (e.g., avoid grazing beyond a minimum grass height of 3-4 inches)?

Periodically mow your pasture to a height of 6-10 inches to maintain healthy vegetation and limit weeds?

4. Do you use a properly installed fence (and crossing, if necessary) to keep animals out of surface water? YES NO

5. As required by the Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations, do you avoid stabling, feeding, hitching, standing, feeding, or grazing of livestock within 100 feet of surface water sources and their tributaries? YES NO

6. Is an alternative water source needed to prevent animal access to surface waters? YES NO

7. Do you have sufficient area to store manure, animal bedding and feed waste for a year or more? YES NO

8. Do you compost livestock manure as part of your manure management strategy? YES NO

9. Do you follow recommended mud management practices? (check selections that apply)

Remove accumulated manure every 1-3 days (depending on weather and accumulation rates)?

Restrict livestock access to sensitive areas such as wetlands, streams and ponds (e.g., with fencing)?

Divert stormwater away from areas where manure accumulates?

Plant trees and/or use materials such as gravel and wood chips in problem areas?