



SECTION FIVE

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT FOR WATER QUALITY

Proper pasture and animal yard management is an important component to a successful hobby farm to support healthy animals and sustainable land management practices.

The use of pastures and animal yards by livestock, horses and other farm animals can cause significant land disturbance resulting in soil erosion, stormwater runoff and the pollution of nearby water resources. Good animal management includes taking measures to address the following:

- **Space** – adequate space for animals is essential, both outdoors and indoors
- **Grass and Grazing** – manage grass and grazing to prevent overgrazing and erosion
- **Manure** – develop a successful manure management plan
- **Mud** – properly implement mud management practices
- **Water Resource Areas** – manage shoreline areas for water quality protection
- **Fencing** – develop techniques to keep animals where you want them
- **Water Supply** – provide suitable water sources, other than streams and ponds





Section 5 contains the following Fact Sheets:

- FACT SHEET 5-1 Animal Space Needs
- FACT SHEET 5-2 Grazing and Grass Management
- FACT SHEET 5-3 Mud Management
- FACT SHEET 5-4 Manure Management
- FACT SHEET 5-5 Manure Composting
- FACT SHEET 5-6 Controlling Animal Access to Waterways: Fencing
- FACT SHEET 5-7 Controlling Animal Access to Waterways: Waterway Crossings
- FACT SHEET 5-8 Controlling Animal Access to Waterways: Alternative Water Sources
- CHECKLIST 5A Animal Management for Water Quality

Many of the hobby farm management techniques in these fact sheets are aimed at reducing soil erosion and sediment transport that may make its way to nearby water resources. Hobby farm erosion and sedimentation controls should be based on reducing the amount of precipitation, snow melt and stormwater runoff that reach erodible areas and potential contamination sources. Simple disconnection practices, buffers and barriers can help eliminate runoff from coming into contact with transportable materials such as bare soil, manure, mud, fertilizers and other chemical compounds found on hobby farms.

