



## SECTION SIX

# STORMWATER RUNOFF SITE MANAGEMENT

Protecting water resources from stormwater runoff is often a multi-step process for hobby farmers, where avoiding and minimizing potential problems is generally the first step. Proper planning can save time and money as opposed to dealing with a larger problem later on.

Previous sections have stressed the importance of selecting the right location for your hobby farm activities; developing a stormwater management strategy; and planning out your nutrient, crop and animal management activities. In those sections, planning strategies were introduced to help the hobby farmer develop successful farming activities while minimizing impacts to water quality.

However, even after careful planning some environmental impacts might remain, which can readily be addressed through further actions. This section focuses on site management measures after following the tips and recommendations in previous sections. Each management technique has been developed so that most hobby farmers can undertake the project in a relatively short amount of time, with commonly found and easily available materials, and in most cases without the need for professional assistance or expensive equipment.





Section 6 offers a “tool box” of Best Management Practices (BMPs) geared towards addressing remaining impacts from your hobby farm through the management and treatment of stormwater runoff. These BMPs include a mix of techniques that focus on:

- Stormwater disconnection/reduction - stormwater is returned to the ground so less water needs to be managed
- Rerouting water - precipitation is kept away from potential pollutants
- Stormwater treatment and natural filtration - help clean polluted runoff before it reaches nearby surface water.

The following Stormwater Runoff Site Management Fact Sheets are included in Section 6:

- FACT SHEET 6-1      Vegetated Buffers
- FACT SHEET 6-2      Grassed Filter Strips
- FACT SHEET 6-3      Vegetated Swales
- FACT SHEET 6-4      Infiltration Trenches and Dry Wells
- FACT SHEET 6-5      Rain Gardens
- FACT SHEET 6-6      Rain Barrels and Cisterns
- FACT SHEET 6-7      Tree Planting for Water Quality
- CHECKLIST 6A        Stormwater Runoff Site Management

## IMPORTANT STORMWATER TERMS

- **Berm or Check Dam** – Small barrier often used in constructed stormwater BMPs and made out of natural material to slow stormwater flow.
- **Groundwater Recharge** – Occurs when water moves downward through the ground and replenishes groundwater.
- **Infiltration** – Occurs when water on the land surface moves downward through the soil.
- **Level Spreader** – Used in constructed stormwater BMPs to slow and spread out the flow of water as sheet flow.
- **Sheet Flow** – A slow moving, shallow flow of water over land that is not concentrated into channels.
- **Stormwater Best Management Practice or BMP** – A method or action used to prevent, treat or manage stormwater quality and quantity to help protect surface water. BMPs can include structural methods that are constructed to help control, filter, infiltrate and store stormwater. BMPs can also be non-structural methods that rely on education, good housekeeping and maintenance.
- **Stormwater Runoff** - Water from precipitation or snow-melt that runs off impervious surfaces such as rooftops, paved streets and parking lots. Stormwater can also come from hard grassy surfaces like lawns and fields and from compacted surfaces such as unpaved driveways, parking lots and roads. Stormwater runoff can pick-up pollutants along these surfaces and carry contaminants to nearby surface waters.