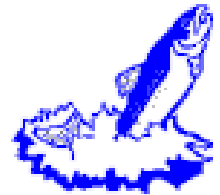


# Protecting the Source



[www.sourcewaterprotection.org](http://www.sourcewaterprotection.org)

PRWA Source Water Protection Newsletter

Summer 2005

## Stream Bank Fencing Improves Water Quality

You've heard farmers say "keep the cows out of the crops". To improve water quality we need to keep the cows out of the creeks. Stream bank fencing and ultimately stream bank restoration is simple method to improve downstream water quality.

Vegetation growing along steam banks creates a natural buffer between agricultural activities and the stream. Vegetation binds the soil together and helps reduce erosion and controls runoff. Additionally, vegetation absorbs nutrients that could create water pollution. Fencing stream banks prevents grazing and trampling of vegetation along the stream bank. When livestock is not allowed to enter the stream, sediment caused by the animal's movement through the water and the introduction of animal waste into the water is prevented. Animal exposure to water borne illnesses is reduced and may result in improved animal health.

Stream bank fencing benefits everyone. Water consumers downstream see improved water quality. Livestock owners see improved herd health and an enhanced farm landscape. Bird, mammal and fish habitat is improved.

Addition information on stream bank fencing can be found at the following websites:

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/hosting/streamreleaf>

[http://gaswcc.georgia.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit\\_1210/60/20/31110081Guidelines\\_Streambank\\_Restoration.pdf](http://gaswcc.georgia.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit_1210/60/20/31110081Guidelines_Streambank_Restoration.pdf)

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/facts/>

[http://www.pacd.org/resources/downstream/downstream\\_fencings.htm](http://www.pacd.org/resources/downstream/downstream_fencings.htm)

(these links are also available on our website)



Preventing situations like this one is one of the major goals of a good streambank fencing program. Cows and other farm animals that are allowed to wade through the stream can cause many problems, including bank erosion and excessive nutrient issues.

## PRWA – “The Source” for Source Water Protection Technical Assistance and Training

PRWA SWP-WHP Program has been assisting Pennsylvanians with expert source water/wellhead protection technical assistance and training since 1992 and is currently assisting over 100 communities with planning and implementation of their local programs. PRWA SWP Program has assisted communities in obtaining over \$2 million in grants for all aspects of successful programs. PRWA assisted projects have received recognition and awards on both state and national levels. Please, contact us if you need SWP-WHP assistance.



Do you know what this is?  
Visit our website to find out!  
[www.sourcewaterprotection.org](http://www.sourcewaterprotection.org)

Look for the Summer 2005 Newsletter section for “Water Cycle Bracelet”...

## Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Agricultural activities can have a very detrimental effect on drinking water sources, both surface water and ground water. Application of fertilizers, animal waste, and stream bank erosion are just a few of the problems. The United State Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency has a program that can help lessen agricultural impact on drinking water.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a federal-state natural resource conservation program targeted to address state and nationally significant agricultural related environmental problems. Through CREP, program participants receive financial incentives from USDA to voluntarily enroll in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for contracts of 10- to 15-years. Participants remove cropland or marginal pastureland from agricultural production and convert the land to native grasses, trees and other vegetation. Land must be owned or leased for at least one year prior to enrollment to be eligible, and must be physically and legally capable of being cropped in a normal manner. Land must also meet cropping history and other eligibility requirements. Enrollment can be on a continuous basis, permitting farmers and ranchers to join the program at any time rather than waiting for specific sign-up periods.

CREP supports increased conservation practices such as filter strips and forested buffers. These conservation practices help protect streams, lakes, and rivers from sedimentation and agricultural runoff. CREP also helps landowners develop and restore wetlands through the planting of appropriate groundcover.

The program, first announced in April 2000, was originally funded at \$210 million and included 20 counties in the lower Susquehanna and Potomac River basins. The project is now expanded to an additional 100,000 acres and an additional \$200 million for 23 northern tier counties. In 2004 an additional 146 million dollars was earmarked to expand the CREP program to include the Ohio River Basin.

For more information contact your local Farm Service Agency or refer to the following websites:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/creppa03.htm>

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/FullStory.asp?StoryID=1612>

[http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/state\\_updates.htm](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/state_updates.htm)

(these links are also available on our website)

### System Spotlight: Roamingwood Water and Sewer Association

The Roamingwood Water and Sewer Association provides water and sewer service to residents of The Hideout. The Hideout is a gated community with more than 4,000 lots. There are currently 3,000 homes. With approximately 45 new homes being built each year, the Association applied for and received a grant to develop a Wellhead Protection Plan to protect the Associations 6 wells.

A key part of the Association's approach to Wellhead Protection has been public education. Volunteers and teachers have been trained to teach



school children about geology, ground and surface water flow, contamination, and water conservation. In addition, presentations are made to civic groups and public officials stressing the need for Wellhead and Source Water Protection.

For recognizing the need to protect their water source and for development of a proactive Source Water Protection Plan which includes participation by neighboring municipalities, PRWA awarded Roamingwood Water and Sewer the 2005 Source Water Protection System of the Year Award.

## Public Drinking Water Suppliers Respond to Source Water Protection Efforts

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) routinely conducts assessments of the state's waters for the attainment of protected uses, such as aquatic life, recreation, fish consumption and special protection. In early 2004, DEP expanded opportunities for the state's 350 filtered surface water suppliers to become more involved in protecting their sources for the public water supply use.

The ongoing monitoring program assesses source water quality in Pennsylvania. One of the primary interests of a public water supplier is to remove waterborne, disease-causing organisms and other health-related contaminants that are present in surface water sources. To date, water suppliers have collected and submitted raw water quality data at over 60 intakes in response to DEP's request this year. This summer, all participating suppliers will receive a letter from DEP regarding the monitoring program's status.

Water suppliers must remain involved in source water protection. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is tentatively scheduled to publish the final Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2) in early 2006. This rule contains requirements to monitor *Cryptosporidium* and *E. Coli* in surface water sources and sources under the direct influence of surface water. DEP encourages you to become familiar with your source water quality and the relationship with LT2. Under this rule, a public water supplier using an impaired surface water source faces a continuing economic impact. The expenses related to designing, constructing, operating and maintaining added infrastructure may be substantial for suppliers affected by high *Cryptosporidium* concentrations. EPA has established a web site on the LT2 Rule, which is located at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lt2/redirect.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lt2/redirect.html). You may wish to pay special attention to the Source Water Monitoring Manual located on the "Guidance Manuals" web page.

For more information, contact Phil Consonery at (717) 772-4018 or e-mail [pconsonery@state.pa.us](mailto:pconsonery@state.pa.us)

## Focus on Pharmaceuticals

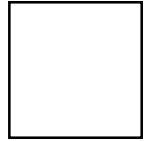
From the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Exposure Research Laboratory of Environmental Sciences:

- ⇒ On drug disposal: The most frequently asked question regards the guidance on the proper disposal of expired or unwanted PPCP's (Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products). It is important to note that there are no U.S. regulations and guidance for the disposal of PPCPs. In fact, a patchwork of state laws sometimes even mandates disposal to sewage plants (at long term nursing facilities). In North America, only Canada has a formal, proactive program that encourages return of all PPCPs to a national consortium of pharmacies for proper disposal. Without guidance in the U.S. a person must use personal judgment on the proper avenues for disposal of PPCPs. Disposal to the domestic sewage system is probably the LEAST desirable recourse. Two better alternatives could include contacting a local pharmacy to see if they are will to take back expired or unwanted PPCPs or contacting a local hazardous waste collector (e.g., community curb-side pickup programs). As a last alternative, disposal in household trash destined for engineered landfills might prove to be better than disposal to a sewage system.

From an article in the On Tap Magazine from the National Drinking Water Clearinghouse on what to do with unused medications:

- ⇒ Take all of a prescribed medication unless there is a good reason not to...such as a bad side effect.
- ⇒ Trash is better than the toilet. Take proper precautions against children or pets accidentally ingesting them, such as breaking up capsules and crushing tablets and then putting the remains back in the original container. Tape the container, and then double bag it before tossing in the garbage.
- ⇒ Check to see if there's a local household hazardous waste collection site that will take old prescription drugs.

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*For more information about Pennsylvania's Source Water Assessment and Protection Program, visit their website at [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us), keyword "Source Water"*

### **Upcoming Events and Deadlines**

- 9/24** - Master Well Owners Network Statewide Conference - State College, PA
- 9/24 - 9/28** - Groundwater Protection Council Annual Forum - Portland, OR
- 10/12 - 10/13** - 2005 Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Symposium - Villanova, PA
- 11/2 - 11/5** - Groundwater Foundation Annual Conference - Nebraska City, NE

This is the first of what will be a semi-annual newsletter created by the Source Water Protection staff at the Pennsylvania Rural Water Association. Please note that some of the articles have been shortened to allow a wide variety of topics. The full articles and more information on Source Water Protection can be found at our website, [www.sourcewaterprotection.org](http://www.sourcewaterprotection.org)  
**Suggestions for SWP related articles are welcome!**

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