

Landowner Self-Assessment Tool

Oregon Department of Agriculture



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Purpose: This self-assessment guide will help you determine if there is potential for water pollution from farming and ranching operations on your property.

Landowner Self-Assessment: Take the “yes” or “no” self-assessment. Financial and technical assistance may be available to help you achieve your farming goals while also protecting your natural resources.

I. STREAMS AND DITCHES (RIPARIAN AREAS)

- Is there bare ground next to streams?
- Are streambanks sloughing or eroding?
- Is the vegetation along the stream mostly weeds? (Note: blackberries and reed canary grass are weeds)
- Is cropping or grazing preventing vegetation from establishing along the streambank to provide shade, streambank stability, and filter surface runoff?

II. PASTURE AND LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

- Do livestock have unrestricted access to streams?
- Due to livestock management, is there bare ground allowing surface runoff?
- Are winter feeding or heavy use areas within 50 feet of streams or wells?
- Does surface water runoff flow through winter feeding or heavy use areas?
- Does roof runoff water flow directly to the ground from farm buildings (no gutters or downspouts)?

III. NUTRIENT AND MANURE MANAGEMENT

- Is manure stored within 50 feet of streams or wells?
- Is manure stored directly on bare ground?
- Is manure left uncovered during the rainy season? (October 1st to April 1st)
- Is manure applied using agronomic application rates?

IV. UPLANDS AND EROSION CONTROL

- Do pasture and cropped areas have bare ground in the winter causing surface erosion into nearby creeks or streams?
- Is there concentrated runoff causing soil erosion?
- Are underground drainage tile outlets eroding?
- Is soil erosion from farm roads occurring?

Do you need financial or technical assistance to improve operations with regards to water quality?

For more information about the ODA Agricultural Water Quality Management Program, and farming/ranching operational requirements to prevent and control water pollution you may contact ODA at (503) 986-4700 or your local Soil and Water Conservation may be able to provide assistance.