A-35: Keeping Livestock in Stables, Pens, Pastures or Fields

Stormwater runoff (rainwater and snow melt) is the largest source of pollution to our lakes, streams and Puget Sound. King County requires businesses to implement measures to protect our shared waters. If the requirements below do not prevent pollution, additional measures are necessary.

The following best management practices (BMPs) apply to livestock, including cows, horses, and other hoofed animals. If a site-specific farm management plan has been approved by King County, adhere to the BMPs in the plan to minimize pollution generated from agricultural activities. For information on farm management plans and additional livestock management requirements, refer to King County Code 21A.30, the Livestock Management Ordinance, for specific BMPs and guidance.

Required BMPs

- Implement BMPs and specific requirements in accordance with King County Code 21A.30 for livestock management. If BMPs are implemented in accordance with the livestock management code, then additional BMPs might not be necessary, unless they are not adequate to protect King County surface waters.
- Livestock wash areas must not be plumbed or flow to the stormwater drainage system or surface waters. Wash water must be discharged to the sanitary sewer, septic system (if allowed), or infiltrate into the ground.
- Runoff from soiled bedding and manure piles must not flow into stormwater drainage systems (including ditches) or surface waters. Divert surface flows and roof runoff away from bedding and manure storage.
- Manure piles must be located more than 100 feet from any ditch that could receive runoff from the pile. Manure piles within 200 feet of ditches or aquatic areas must be covered and contained.
- Contain bedding to prevent the materials from being blown or washed away into the stormwater drainage system or surface waters.
- Use fencing or dense vegetation to prohibit livestock from entering County-owned ditches.
- In order to prevent contaminated runoff from entering surface waters, stormwater drainage systems or adjacent properties, a protected vegetative buffer—such as a grassy area inaccessible by livestock—or other means of erosion control must be maintained around the perimeter of all livestock access areas where there is potential for runoff to leave offsite. Muddy and/or manure laden runoff must not leave your property.
- Runoff from winter feeding and heavy use areas must not be allowed to enter perennial or seasonal streams or ditches.
- When maintaining, repairing, and fueling farm equipment, implement BMPs in activity sheets A-18 Vehicle and Equipment Repair and Maintenance, A-2 Outdoor

Storage of Liquid Materials in Stationary Tanks, and A-3 Storage of Liquid Material in Portable Containers.

- Manure shall be spread on fields only during the growing season and not on saturated or frozen fields.
- Implement vegetated buffers to protect aquatic areas, in accordance with KCC 21A.30

Supplemental BMPs

- Make sure there is vegetative cover or some other type of ground cover—such as mulch or hog fuel—if animals are kept in unpaved, non-graveled areas in order to prevent erosion.
- If possible, keep livestock off the pasture in the winter.
- Install gutters and downspouts on buildings or structures in animal confinement areas to direct clean rain water away from sources of contamination.
- Surround the area where animals are kept by a fence or other means that prevents animals from moving away from the controlled area where BMPs are used.

Technical Assistance

King Conservation District

- The King Conservation District can provide technical assistance and cost share for the implementation of livestock management BMPs. Personnel are available for site visits and can help prepare farm conservation plans compliant with King County code. To request technical assistance, call the number below, email, or fill out this form directly: KCD Farm Technical Assistance Request

800 SW 39th St, Unit 150
Renton, WA 98057
Telephone: 425-282-1900
Email: district@kingcd.org
www.kingcd.org

Washington State University Cooperative Extension – King County

- The Washington State University Cooperative Extension Service offers a variety of educational services designed to promote sensitivity to water quality concerns in relation to agricultural production, livestock management, and small farms.

560 Naches Avenue SW, Suite 130
Renton, WA 98057
Telephone: 425-738-0111
http://king.wsu.edu/

Horses for Clean Water

- Horses for Clean Water offers environmentally sensitive horse keeping education on manure management, pasture management, mowing, composting, and what equipment to use.

  7235 Southside Boulevard
  Nampa, ID 83686
  Telephone: 206-909-0225
  http://www.horsesforcleanwater.com

Additional Information

- Potential pollutants can include: fecal coliform bacteria, nutrients, oxygen demanding substances and sediment.
- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 3: Commercial and Multifamily BMPs
  - A-2: Outdoor Storage of Liquid Materials in Stationary Tanks
  - A-3: Storage of Liquid Material in Portable Containers
  - A-18: Vehicle and Equipment Repair and Maintenance
  - A-34: Animal Waste
- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 5: Information Sheets
  - Containment
- Livestock management ordinance fact sheet, https://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/2009/kcr2621.pdf
- King Conservation District - Healthy Horses, Clean Water https://kingcd.org/2019/08/29/healthy-horses-clean-water-tips-for-small-acreages/
- Washington State Department of Agriculture – Nutrient Management Plans https://agr.wa.gov/departments/land-and-water/livestock-nutrients/nutrient-management-plans
- United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Services. NRCS staff members work directly with farmers and agricultural landowners to provide technical and financial conservation assistance https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/state-office-contacts/washington-state-office

For more information or assistance contact the King County Stormwater Services at 206–477–4811 and visit kingcounty.gov/stormwater.