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# Water Quality Guidelines for Horse & Livestock Activities



This brochure has been prepared to inform residents in Yuba County of the guidelines recommended for horse and livestock management in order to protect the water quality in storm drains, channels, creeks, rivers and ultimately the ocean.

## Water Quality Guidelines for Horse & Livestock Activities

This brochure is intended to explain the regulatory issues regarding the discharges that can occur due to horse and livestock activities. This brochure also explains what you can do to prevent these discharges.

When conducting horse and livestock activities such as building corrals, feeding livestock or cleaning and grooming horses, you should follow these guidelines to prevent discharges from entering the storm drains or creeks where it flows untreated to bays, estuaries, and ultimately the ocean.

### How do horse and livestock activities contribute to water pollution?

Animal waste can contribute to water pollution when it is improperly stored or left uncovered near small streams and storm drains. During a rainfall, it can be washed into storm drains and flow, untreated, directly into the ocean.

**Before you allow anything to go into waterways, stop and think. Waterways flow through wetlands and to the ocean.**

**Remember the cleanliness of the ocean begins with you.**

## Solutions

### Facilities Design

- Build barns, corrals, and other high-use areas on portions of the property that drain away from the nearest creek or storm drain.
- Restrict animal access to creeks and streams, preferably by fencing.
- Protect manure storage facilities from rainfall and surface runoff.
- Install gutters that will divert runoff away from livestock areas.

### Pasture Management

- Confine animals in properly fenced areas except during exercise and grazing times.
- Animal holding areas should be swept or shoveled at least once per day, and not hosed down to a stream or storm drain

### Grazing Management

- Establish healthy and vigorous pastures with at least three inches of leafy material.
- During heavy rainfall, consider indoor feeding, a practice which keeps more manure under a roof and away from runoff.

### Waste Collection and Storage

- Store animal waste in a sturdy, seepage-free unit.
- Line waste pits or trenches with an impermeable layer.

### Manure Composting

- Compost soiled bedding and manure.
- Donate composted material to local greenhouses, nurseries, and botanical parks.
- Transport manure to topsoil companies or composting centers.

### Grooming

- Use less toxic alternatives such as bacterial insecticides, diatomaceous earth insecticide soaps, boric acid powder, horticultural oils, and pyrethrin-based insecticides.
- When washing livestock, either allow wash water to seep into the ground or conduct in an area that is routed to the sanitary sewer.