

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

The following best management practices (BMPs) apply to livestock, including cows, horses, and other hooved 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 livestock management requirements, refer to King County Code 21A.30.

*Potential pollutants can include but are not limited to fecal coliform bacteria, nutrients, oxygen demanding substances and sediment.*

BMPs are required by King County Water Quality Code (KCC 9.12). If the BMPs included here are not enough to prevent contamination of stormwater, you will be required to take additional measures.

### **Required BMPs**

- Livestock wash areas may not be plumbed or flow to the stormwater drainage system or surface waters. Wash water must be discharged to the sanitary sewer, septic system, or infiltrate into the ground.
- Locate soiled bedding and manure piles such that runoff does not flow to the stormwater drainage system or to surface waters.
- 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 storm drain ditches
- Properly dispose of spent fluorescent bulbs often used in barns, stables, and arenas. The mercury containing bulbs should not be stored loosely nor thrown in the garbage. Find the nearest collection site at [www.lightrecycle.org](http://www.lightrecycle.org).
- 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.
- 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 may not be necessary unless they are not adequate to protect King County surface waters.

### **Supplemental BMPs**

- Make sure there is vegetative cover or some other type of ground cover, such as mulch, if animals are kept in unpaved and uncovered areas in order to prevent erosion.
- 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 for the implementation of livestock management BMPs. Personnel are available for site visits and can help prepare farm management plans compliant with King County code.

1107 SW Grady Way, Suite 130  
Renton, WA 98057  
Telephone: 425-282-1900  
Email: [district@kingcd.org](mailto:district@kingcd.org)  
<http://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.

919 SW Grady Way Suite 120  
Renton, WA 98055  
Telephone: 206-205-3100  
<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

- *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](#)
- 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  
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/national/home/>

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*For more information or assistance contact the King County Stormwater Services at 206-477-4811 and visit [kingcounty.gov/stormwater](http://kingcounty.gov/stormwater).*