Animal Waste Management

Ag Water Quality Plan Fact Sheet **April 2002**

Animal wastes can be a cost effective source of nutrients for crops, but when used to excess they can be harmful to water resources. Buffer strips, regular cleanout, storing wastes on impervious material on raised sites, keeping wastes under roof, fencing off streams, maintaining a healthy herd/land capacity, off-stream watering and diverting water from holding areas are all best management practices. Waste management generally falls into three classes: 1) BMPs clearly visible and working; 2) No harm is visible, but absence of BMPs leave room for improvement; and, 3) There is clear evidence of pollution.

1) BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

Concrete lots help contain wastes and keep animals out of the mud.

Manure should be applied to fields at a prescribed rate.

Well maintained manure holding sites keep waste where it belongs.

Slurry should be applied on actively growing crops and on level land.

Yamhill River Basin SB 1010 Ag Water Quality Standards

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2) ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Buffers that surround animal lots work as filters for runoff.

Temporary curbs or storage areas are better than nothing.

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3) CLEAR INDICATORS OF NON-COMPLIANCE

Liquid manure covering road and standing in ditches is an obvious case of non-compliance.

Uncovered pile allows manure to erode every time it rains or snows.

Livestock waste washing into drainage ditch.

Livestock with easy access to streams allows erosion and pollution.