

# Conservation Planning

Columbia Soil & Water  
Conservation District



2514 Sykes Road  
St. Helens, OR 97051  
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## What is a Conservation Plan?

- ◆ A conservation plan (aka farm plan) is a tool used to help manage your operation profitably while protecting the natural resources on your land.
- ◆ The choice to develop a conservation plan is completely up to the landowner. This process is totally **VOLUNTARY!** The landowner makes all the decisions, implements the plan, and has complete control over what is done and when (within guidelines of local permitting process).

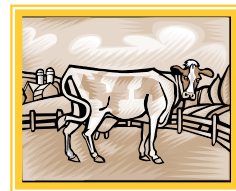
## A Conservation Plan consists of nice steps:

- ◆ Identify your objectives.
- ◆ Inventory resources.
- ◆ Analyze resource inventory.
- ◆ Identify resource problems.
- ◆ Develop alternative solutions.
- ◆ Make your decisions.
- ◆ Implement plan.
- ◆ Evaluate plan success and adjust as necessary.

## Benefits of a Conservation Plan:

- ◆ Same money over the long term as your land becomes more productive.
- ◆ Ensures better natural resource quality for you, your animals and your neighbors.
- ◆ Increases your property value.
- ◆ Assists in meeting regulatory requirements.
- ◆ Shows regulatory agencies that you're working to improve land uses.
- ◆ Improves animal health and productivity.
- ◆ Contributes to plant, crop, and tree vigor while working to eliminate invasive plants.
- ◆ Education, fun and rewarding to know you are improving your land for future generations.

**There is a lot to know about owning and managing land and you'll need to know even more if you're raising livestock. With a little time, some knowledge, and a modest amount of money, you can have a place in the country of which you can be proud, while protecting Columbia County's natural resources.**



# Farm Animal & Poultry Owners.... Do you comply with SB1010?



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## What's the problem?

Manures are rich sources of bacteria, phosphates, and nitrates.

- ◆ **Bacteria:** Can spread disease to other livestock and people in the watershed.
- ◆ **Phosphates:** Promote algae growth when dissolved in surface waters. As algae dies, decomposing bacteria remove oxygen from the water, killing fish. Algae also plugs irrigation filters and reduces scenic and recreational values for streams.
- ◆ **Nitrogen:** In well water, excessive nitrates have caused livestock deaths and severe permanent nervous system damage to human infants. Ammonia forms of nitrogen remove oxygen from water, killing fish. Nitrogen may promote algae growth.

## What are the Requirements?

**(A)** No activities shall be conducted which result in the discharge of wastes— including but not limited to livestock manures, compost, Fertilizers, and waste products— into waters of the state.

**(B)** No wastes shall be placed where they are likely to escape or be carried into the waters of the state. (OAR.ODA 603-95-0140, 5a, b, c)



## What can be done?

Apply one or more of the following Best Management Practices (BMPs):

- ◆ Perform regular cleanout maintenance and proper storage of manure and wet or soiled bedding from heavily used areas, stalls, and paddocks.
- ◆ Store wastes on dry, impervious material. Packed clay soil may work, but concrete with side berms is most desirable.
- ◆ Locate waste storage on a raised site outside of drainage areas. If necessary, grade the area surrounding the storage.
- ◆ Locate storage conveniently for loading and unloading.
- ◆ If power equipment will be used, be sure storage is both large and strong enough for the machinery.
- ◆ If building a storage facility, plan for a storage size large enough to hold all manure and bedding for at least six months.
- ◆ Keep all wastes under roof or waterproof tarp from October through April.
- ◆ Develop a sound plan for proper use and disposal of wastes. Manure spread over fields in spring or summer may significantly increase production and reduce need and costs for chemical fertilizer. Repeated spreading though, may build excessive levels of some nutrients in soils. Soils and manure should be tested at least every three to four years. Many gardeners, green houses, nurseries, and farms use manures to improve their soils. Composted manures are marketable with demand increasing for organic soil amendments.

## What are the guidelines?

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service *Field Office Technical Guide* (FOTG) standards:

- 312-Waste Management Systems
- 313-Waste Storage Structure
- 317-Composting Facility
- 633-Waste Utilization.

**For additional information or technical assistance contact us at 503.397.4555. Or come on in. We are open Mon-Fri 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.**