

## Keeping Livestock on Small Acreages

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Raising healthy, productive animals goes hand-in-hand with protecting the environment and our family's health – it is all interconnected.

We start with proper:

- Manure storage and recycling
- Livestock yard management
- Pasture management
- Pond and stream buffers



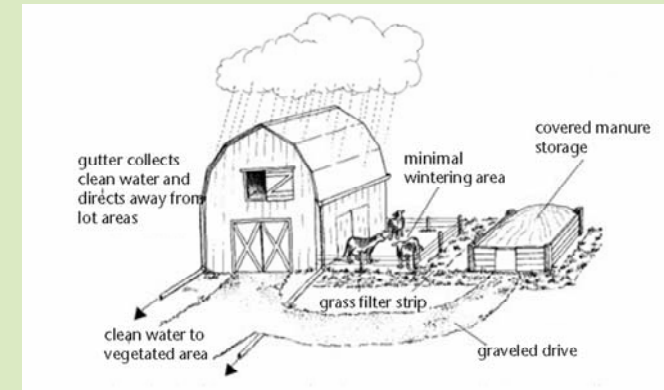
Photo courtesy of the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension

- Cover and contain manure and compost piles to prevent rain, snow and runoff from mixing with them.
- Line these areas with a plastic liner or tarp, organic materials such as leaves or woodchips, or impervious surfaces such as concrete.
- Surround these areas with vegetative buffers to soak up "dirty" water. Do not allow runoff from these areas to enter water resources or leave the property.
- Spread manure or compost on gardens and cropland that need it – if not your own land then take it someplace that can use it. Don't guess, soil test.



Photo courtesy of the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension

- Prevent roof and other runoff from entering the yard by installing roof gutters and outlets, and berms and swales. This reduces mud and pollution risks.
- The yard can be lined with concrete or a geo-textile fabric and gravel to prevent mud and protect animal health.
- Consider roofing part or all of the yard, especially feeding stations, to keep out rain and snow and reduce mud and runoff.
- Surround the yard with vegetative buffers to soak up "dirty" water. Do not allow runoff from these areas to enter water resources or leave the property.



Drawing courtesy of Washington State University Extension



The Watson Farm, Jamestown, Rhode Island

- Graze pastures at a height of 6 - 8 inches down to 3 - 4 inches. When properly managed, they provide a valuable source of feed.
- Divide pastures into multiple paddocks to rotate animals and allow pastures to rest and re-grow to the proper height.
- Use a properly managed livestock yard or "sacrifice area" for exercise and loafing when pastures are in need of rest.



Photo courtesy of USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Prevent animals from having free access to a pond or stream. It can erode the banks, destroy shoreline buffers and increase pollution.
- Use fencing to create vegetative pond and stream buffers. A small access ramp or stream crossing can be provided if necessary.
- Consider installing water troughs or other alternative watering systems.