

Roadways, Staging Areas & Farmsteads

Ag Water Quality Plan Fact Sheet

July 2002

Poorly maintained roads and staging areas can comprise the vast majority of a farm's sediment output. Keeping roadsides and the landscape surrounding work areas covered with grass will allow runoff to slowly be absorbed by the soil and prevent erosion from occurring. It is relatively easy to determine if your land is under compliance with Ag Water Quality Plan guidelines. Applications generally fall into three classes: 1) BMPs clearly visible and working; 2) No observable problems but absence of BMPs leaves room for improvement; and 3) Evidence that unsound practices are leading to surface or ground water pollution.

1) BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)



Clean blacktop around drain keeps pollution to a minimum.



Debris free work area increases safety and efficiency.



Well maintained ditch inhibits weeds and filters runoff.



Wide, shallow ditch allows mowing and filters water from roads and fields.

Yamhill River Basin SB 1010 Ag Water Quality Standards



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2) ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT



Lack of vegetation in ditch will lead to erosion.



During rains manure and nutrients will wash into surface water.

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3) CLEAR INDICATORS OF NON-COMPLIANCE



This eroding driveway ditch is obviously contributing to water pollution.



Lack of vegetative cover is accelerating erosion and runoff.



All the dirt and fertilizer on this driveway is on its way to the nearest stream.



Spraying manure on the road is an obvious example of non-compliance.