PUGET SOUND
National Estuary Program

NON-DAIRY INSPECTORS – WHATCOM AND SKAGIT SHELLFISH RECOVERY

Ecology has partnered with conservation districts, county health and public works departments, and state departments of health and agriculture to identify and correct preventable sources of fecal bacteria pollution.

Identifying potential sources

Ecology works with partners to sample water quality and find pollution hot spots. Partners survey land use around hot spots to identify preventable potential pollution sources such as livestock activities, manure applications, or failing septic systems.



Contacting Landowners

Ecology staff and partners contact landowners to offer information about how to modify management practices to reduce risk of polluting local waterways. Staff may contact residents by phone, in-person conversations, or by mail. Ecology staff make landowners aware of services offered by the department and conservation districts.

WHY IS THIS ISSUE IMPORTANT

Shellfish are an important resource. To protect the health of shellfish consumers, shellfish growing area waters must be clean. The activities that take place upstream can threaten harvest. Residents must understand how their actions affect those downstream.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

If you keep farm animals, maintain fences that keep them out of streams and seasonally wet areas that drain to ditches and swales. Collect and store manure under cover during the rainy season. Maintain healthy pastures. If you have a septic system, stay current on inspections and maintenance.

ABOUT Ecology

Ecology is responsible for enforcing laws preventing pollution. We do this by contacting landowners to help them understand how their activities could lead to pollution and provide simple solutions, or refer them to specialists for additional assistance.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-quality/Runoff-pollution/Agricultural-runoff

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