Reduce Manure Impacts

N22507 K2117 DNMP NTA #407

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) Dairy Nutrient Management Program (DNMP) worked to identify sources of fecal coliform in support of Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) programs in Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom counties.

Accomplishments

WSDA DNMP focused on reducing impacts to surface water from dairy manure handling practices, including land application of manure, in shellfish growing priority areas.

- Surveys identified 1,064 dairy nutrient applications that were mapped and assessed for risk:
  - 22 high, 188 medium, 854 low risk
  - WSDA followed-up on 100% of “high risk” applications
  - Additional 422 non-dairy applications
  - Dominate risk factors:
    - Inappropriate timing
    - Inadequate setbacks
- 1,813 water samples collected from 436 locations
  - 1,522 source identification samples
  - 291 in support of ambient sampling
- 35 documented water quality violations
- 37 dairy referrals to local Conservation Districts for technical assistance
- Referred potential non-dairy bacteria sources to water quality partners:
  - 40 non-dairy ag operations to Ecology or local county programs
  - 7 non-ag properties to local county programs
- Sub-award to Whatcom CD to host 8 educational events with a focus on manure management

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Many fixes are as simple as learning a different way to manage water or animals on your property. Local Conservation Districts (CD) can provide free and confidential technical assistance and even funding opportunities for bigger projects.

Small steps can make a big difference. Connect with your community and volunteer for restoration or cleanup projects in your area.

ABOUT WSDA

Dairy Nutrient Management is a water quality program administered by WSDA. Through outreach, technical assistance and regulatory enforcement, WSDA has multiple tools to identify problems and find solutions that support our farmers, clean water and shellfish growing areas.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

https://agr.wa.gov/departments/land-and-water/livestock-nutrients

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