A Division of Responsibility

- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Water Quality Management Act 1993
ODA has lead authority to regulate farming practices for water quality
Must meet water quality standards set by Environmental Quality Commission
1996-2004 39 Area Plans and Rules Were Developed
Water Quality Program

- Confined Animal Feeding operation CAFO
- Pesticides and Fertilizer Program

Outreach and Technical Assistance

Compliance Program

- Strategic Implementation Areas
- Compliance Actions

Water Quality Management Area Plans

- Biennial Review
- Local Management Agency
- Local Advisory Committee
- SOW and Focus Areas

Partnerships
North Coast Agricultural Water Quality
Local Advisory Committee
Clean Water

Agricultural Landowners andOperators

Partnerships

Soil and Water ConservationDistricts

Agricultural WaterQuality Area Rules

Agricultural WaterQuality Area Plan

Local AdvisoryCommittee
The North Coast Area Plan

Chapter 3
Measurable Objectives and Strategic Initiatives
North Coast Basin Accomplishments  
2005-2016

Provided Technical Assistance

- 1,892 People
- On-Site Evaluations
- 419 Sites
- Water Quality Projects
- 49 Projects

Fencing-Access Exclusions

- 31,932 Feet
- Riparian Planting
- 25 Acres
- Heavy Use Areas
- 161 Acres

July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2015

Clatsop SWCD • Columbia SWCD • Tillamook SWCD • West Multnomah SWCD
Focus Areas

- Pre-Assessment
- Outreach to Landowners
- Technical Assistance Project Planning
- Post-Assessment
- Report progress

2015-2019 North Coast Focus Areas • Lewis & Clark Valley
The North Coast Area Rules

NORTH COAST

Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan and Rules

The Oregon Legislature passed the Agricultural Water Quality Management Act in 1993. It requires the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to present and control water pollution from agricultural activities. As a result, ODA worked with local advisory committees to develop Water Quality Management Area Plans in the North Coast Area. The North Coast Area Water Quality Management Area Plan and Rules apply to lands within the area. The North Coast Area Plan and Rules are reviewed and updated by ODA and the local advisory committees every two years. The original North Coast Area Plan and Rules were approved by ODA in 2000.

THE AREA RULES

The Area Rule applies to agricultural activities on lands within the North Coast Area. The Area Rule applies to any agricultural activities on lands within the North Coast Area. The Area Rule applies to any agricultural activities on lands within the North Coast Area. The Area Rule applies to any agricultural activities on lands within the North Coast Area.

THE AREA PLAN

The Area Plan guides local landowners and their conservation partners in how to address water quality concerns in the North Coast Area. The Area Plan identifies areas with water quality concerns and suggests actions for addressing them. The Area Plan does not tell anyone how to farm, fish, or otherwise use natural resources. Rather, it includes recommended practices from which landowners can choose. The practices can help meet business and conservation goals while also preventing water pollution.

Agricultural water quality concerns in the North Coast area are primarily:
- Temperature
- Dissolved oxygen
- Sediment
- Nutrients

THE AREA RULES

The Agricultural Water Quality Program focuses on voluntary and cooperative efforts by landowners and others to prevent water pollution. However, the Agricultural Water Quality Management Act also includes enforcement to ensure that landowners take reasonable and necessary steps to prevent and control water quality from agricultural sources.

DO THE AREA PLAN AND AREA RULES APPLY TO ME?

The Area Plan and Area Rule apply to all agricultural lands. This includes lands in current agricultural use and those lying idle or on which management has been deferred. They also apply to agricultural activities within incorporated city boundaries, urban growth boundaries, and non-federal forest lands.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Landowners should evaluate their agricultural activities and try to determine if they might be:
- Polluting streams, canals, or groundwater
- Preventing growth of appropriate vegetation along streams
- Taking any steps that could prevent compliance with the Area Rules and protect water quality

WHO CAN HELP?

Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Columbia SWCD, Tillamook SWCD, and West Multnomah SWCD are the primary sources of landlord assistance to address water quality concerns. SWCDs are non-regulatory local organizations that can help landowners to take reasonable and necessary steps to prevent and control water quality from agricultural sources.

MORE INFORMATION

Clatsop SWCD: (503) 325-4571
Columbia SWCD: (503) 397-6535
Tillamook SWCD: (503) 822-5340
West Multnomah SWCD: (503) 279-5175
Oregon Department of Agriculture:
- Delta District, (503) 588-6500
- Oregon Water Quality Program:
  - (503) 984-4730
- http://oda.state.or.us/AgWaterQa
- http://oda.state.or.us/AgWaterQb

Updated 7/17
Strategic Implementation Area
2018
Humbug, Cow, and Cronin Creeks
Open House April 4, 2018 at Jewell School
Water Quality & Agriculture: It's Your Responsibility

Streamside Vegetation
Agricultural activities must allow the establishment and development of the vegetation expected to grow along the stream naturally, given the soil type and climate. Plants need to have a chance to become established and to grow to maturity.

Healthy streamside vegetation provides
- Shade, reduces bank erosion
- Filters nutrients and sediment, and provides fish and wildlife habitat.

- Plant willows, elders, and other vegetation appropriate for your area to give nature a head start.
- Fence livestock away from streams or ditches as part of a pasture rotation.
- Provide off-stream livestock water troughs and nose-pumps.
- Harden access points or old streambeds to establish SWCD staff are highly knowledgeable and can assist you in the best financial assistance through the CIP program designed to improve streamside vegetation.

Uplands and Erosion Control
- A protective layer of crop residue prevents erosion.
- Maintain trees, shrubs, and grasses.
- Select bare areas to control
- Use herbicides to control weeds.
- Maximize hard surfaces to run water off.
- Capture standing and slow water by using swales and sediment basins.

Livestock Manure and Heavy Use Areas
Management of areas used for feeding and handling livestock is critical to the success of livestock operations and can affect water quality.

- Prevent runoff of sediment and manure from feeding and calving areas.
- Place feed, water, and minerals as far as possible from stream areas to prevent overflow of streamside areas.
- Spread saturated and reduced in nutrient and sediment.
- Minimize hard surfaces to run water off.
- Capture standing and slow water by using swales and sediment basins.

How can I help improve water quality?
The following recommendations may help you improve water quality, ensure that you are operating within the guidelines of your Area Plan, and comply with water quality regulations. It’s likely that you already have one or more of these management practices. You may choose the approach that works for your operation as long as it meets the regulations and the goals of the Area Plan.

Livestock Grazing
Grazing systems should promote and maintain adequate vegetative cover to protect water quality by considering
- Amount of pasture
- Frequency, duration, and season of grazing
- Proper grazing improves the pasture plant community, creates more forage, helps prevent weeding, and supports animal health.

- Formulation of pasture grasses and appropriate stocking density will depend on whether you live in the east or west side of the Cascades. A rule of thumb is to graze when pasture grasses are 6-8 inches tall and to remove animals when grasses are 3-4 inches tall.

- Recommendations include:
  - Rotate grazing among two or more pastures. This allows vegetation to recover and reduces trampling and resulting erosion and runoff.
  - Allow grasses to regrow before fall harvest or the dormant season.
  - Don’t graze when soils are saturated; this compacts soils and destroys roots.
  - Provide off-stream water and minerals in each pasture. This reduces overgrazing of streamside areas and increases use of forage away from streams.

- To prevent nutrient loss, do not apply when acids are needed for livestock.