

BMP 11

Livestock Management

Purpose

Livestock should be managed in a way that enough cover to protect the soil from erosion is maintained and sedimentation of nearby bodies of water is prevented. It is important to protect, maintain, or improve the quantity and quality of the plant resources, to maintain soil productivity, and to prevent soil compaction.

Definition

Exclusion of livestock in areas where desired forest reproduction, soil hydrologic values, and/or existing vegetation may be seriously damaged by grazing.

Recommendations

In forested areas where livestock exclusion is desirable, steps can be taken to minimize impacts from livestock. Fencing pastures separately from woodlands is a good step in keeping livestock out of a wooded area, which can enhance productivity of the forest vegetation and protect vegetation that provides wildlife food and cover. The cost of livestock exclusion can be reduced by taking advantage of such natural barriers as rock cliffs (streams are an exception).

Summary: AWQA Minimum Requirements for BMP No. 11

See the Livestock BMP in the *Agriculture Water Quality Plan* for more information about livestock exclusion.