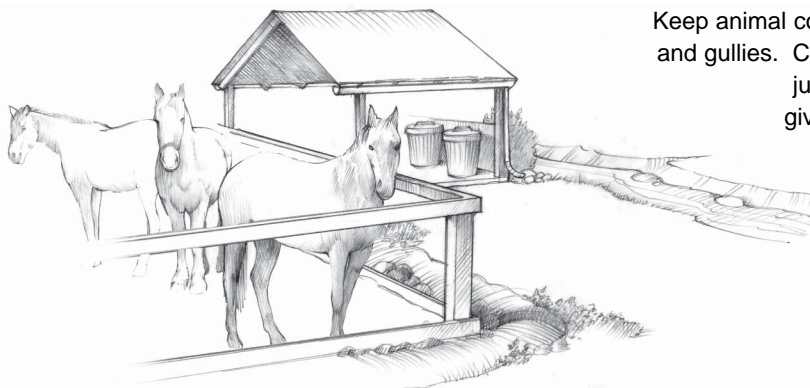


Horses

Best Management Practices



Keep animal corrals away from creeks and gullies. Creating a berm or swale just outside the corral will give liquid time to infiltrate and not pollute storm water runoff.

Selection of Best Management Practices

In order to comply with Santa Barbara County's Municipal Storm Water Permit, Best Management Practices (BMPs) must be employed at municipal facilities. BMPs may be selected from the options listed below or developed on a case-by-case basis as appropriate. Facilities with a Water Quality Protection Protocol (WQPP) should follow the BMPs stated in that protocol.

Practices

Site development

1. Stables, corrals, paddocks, animal enclosures, wash areas, etc. should be placed at least 50 feet away from waterways (i.e., creeks, arroyos). Mandatory land use requirements vary by location; check with County Planning & Development for site-specific conditions.
2. Direct runoff from washing and grooming areas into the sanitary sewer, where feasible. Do not let wash-water enter storm water conveyances.
3. Create a buffer zone of grass or plants between structures and creeks or swales; it will help with the infiltration of rainwater by slowing runoff and also preventing erosion. Shallow swales or small berms of straw can be used to control run-off.
4. Consider installing gutters on barns and other buildings to divert storm water away from high use areas. The greatest concentration of pollutants is usually found in high use areas.

Goal / Purpose

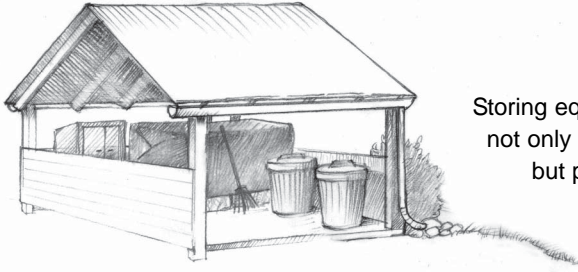
Eliminate discharge of manure and sediment into the storm water system by employing buffer zones and consistent management of manure.

Santa Barbara County

[www.countyofsb.org/
project_cleanwater](http://www.countyofsb.org/project_cleanwater)

Revised May, 2003





Storing equipment and supplies under cover not only increases longevity for equipment, but protects storm water runoff as well.

5. Store equipment and supplies under cover whenever possible. Minimizing contact with storm water minimizes contaminants from getting into run-off.
6. Minimize chemical usage by trying alternatives such as biological and mechanical controls. Always follow the manufacturer's direction when using chemicals, using as little as possible to complete the job.

Grazing

7. Fence off creeks and water conveyances to prevent the horses from trampling the creek bed and vegetation; these act as natural filters for the creek.
8. Rotate animals, when possible, to keep the grass at least 3 inches high. This is the minimum length that still allows the grass to provide filtering qualities and maintain good soil conditions for turf growth.

Manure Management

9. Clean stables and paddocks as often as possible, preferably daily, to remove manure and soiled bedding.
10. Clean up manure deposited at the wash area or other wet areas immediately.

There are several ways to handle the manure after consolidation; two of these options are discussed below. It is important to manage the waste to control insects and protect storm water runoff from contamination.

Compost

11. A guide to composting horse manure can be found at Project Clean Water's web site at www.countyofsb.org/project_cleanwater.
12. To contact others who would like to use your manure or have manure to donate go to the Green Gardeners web page at www.Greengardener.org. They will have a bulletin board where you can post your name and find names of those who want manure for their gardens.
13. Parasitic wasps are an alternative biologic control that can help reduce fly populations.

Associated BMPs

- Housekeeping
- Landscape & Undeveloped Areas
- Materials & Hazardous Waste Storage
- Spill Prevention & Cleanup
- Storm Drains & Catch Basins
- Trash & Dumpster Management

Offsite Disposal

14. Contact the local haulers to locate a company that offers disposal.
15. Make sure manure is kept in a watertight container prior to pickup.

Contractors Requirements

16. Ensure that contractors provide the County with a copy of their storm water awareness training and procedures for protecting the storm water system. These procedures should cover activities from cleaning to corral placement.
17. Include specific contract language to inform the contractor that they must comply with federal, state and local storm water rules and regulations as required by the Clean Water Act. Amend existing contracts to include this language, if not already included.

Employee Training

Staff training may include regular training sessions at those facilities responsible for maintaining or managing horses. Training sessions should provide information on the selected storm water BMPs and methods for preventing discharge of pollutants into the storm drain system. Encourage employees to suggest modifications for existing BMPs and to create new BMPs; their suggestions will likely reduce labor and increase storm water runoff protection. If the above suggested BMPs require some modification to work for you or do not cover some aspect of your operations or facility, call Project Clean Water at 568-3440 for assistance.

Storm water BMP training may be incorporated with other training sessions such as safety training. Facilities with a Storm Water Plan should follow the training requirements stated in that Plan. Records of the training sessions must be kept for at least three years. These records should include who conducted the training, who attended, subjects discussed, and the date(s) of the training.

For additional information on this and other BMPs, or the County's responsibilities under the NPDES Phase II federal regulations for storm water discharges, see www.countyofsb.org/project_cleanwater or contact Project Clean Water staff at 568-3440.