



Agriculture and Source Water Protection

Durham Region is home to some of the best drinking water in the world. It's important to protect the surface or ground water that supplies municipal drinking water systems. This is called source water protection.

Ontario farmers have demonstrated a long-standing commitment to farm practices that help maintain and improve sources of drinking water, such as:

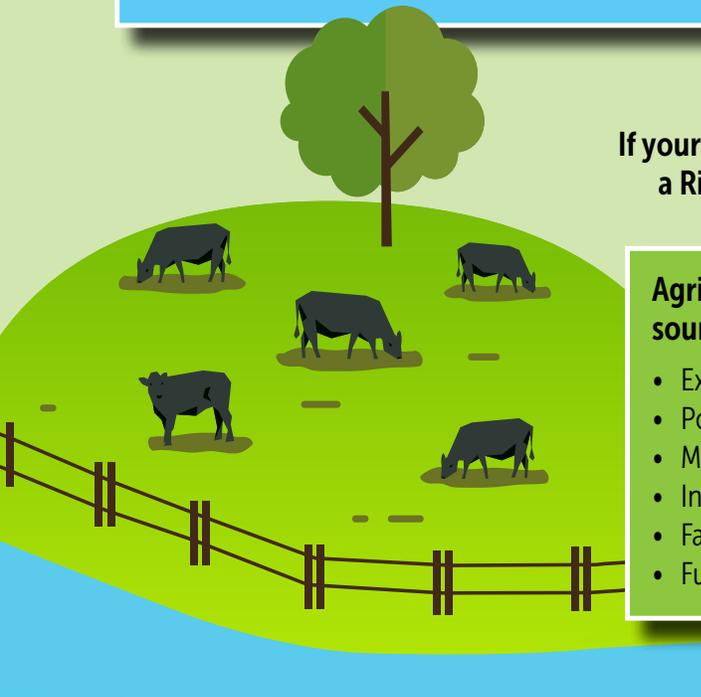
- Reducing inputs and nutrient management planning
- Preventing erosion and reducing the movement of nutrients and pesticides
- Barriers and buffers planted to intercept and contain contaminants



If your farm is near a municipal well, you may be required to work with a Risk Management Official to develop a Risk Management Plan.

Agricultural activities that can potentially impact drinking water sources include:

- Excess nutrient and pesticide application
- Poor storage of nutrients and pesticides
- Manure runoff from livestock grazing areas or outdoor confinement areas
- Insufficient barriers and buffers between working fields and water courses
- Failing septic systems
- Fuel tank leaks or spills



A few strategies to protect sources of drinking water for you and your community include:

- Apply nutrients and pesticides responsibly
- Properly inspect and protect wells
- Store bulk chemicals such as pesticides in covered, dry locations
- Prevent animals from congregating in wetland areas or near creeks and rivers
- Handle fuel properly and have spill response materials on hand

