

# Landowner Self-Assessment Tool

Agricultural Water Quality Program



OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE

**Purpose:** The Landowner Self-Assessment Tool is intended to help you determine if there is potential for water pollution from agricultural activities on your property. You can use this tool to understand what adjustments you may want to make to protect water quality. You can also use this worksheet as a jumping off point for working with your local SWCD.

**Landowner Self-Assessment:** Complete the self-assessment by answering “Yes” or “No” to the following questions. Once completed, a “Yes” answer could indicate that there is an opportunity for you to adapt your farming or ranching practices to improve water quality. A “No” answer suggests that conditions are preventing water pollution.

## STREAMSIDE MANAGEMENT

- |  | Yes                      | No                       |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Is cropping or grazing preventing vegetation from establishing along the streambank? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Are there areas of bare soil along streams?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Are streambanks slumping or eroding?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Is streamside vegetation mostly weeds (e.g., blackberries and reed canary grass)?    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## PASTURE AND LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

- |   | Yes                      | No                       |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Do pastures have areas of bare soil?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Are winter feeding or heavy use areas adjacent or close to streams, ditches or wells?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Does surface water runoff flow through winter feeding or heavy use areas?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Is runoff from farm buildings draining into areas of potential contamination sources such as heavy use or manure storage areas? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## NUTRIENT AND MANURE MANAGEMENT

- |  | Yes                      | No                       |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Is manure stored adjacent or close to streams, ditches or wells?                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Is manure stored directly on bare soil?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Is manure left uncovered during the rainy season?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Is manure applied to fields greater than agronomic application rates?                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Is manure likely to be carried to streams or irrigation ditches by surface water runoff? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## UPLANDS AND EROSION CONTROL

- |  | Yes                      | No                       |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Do pastures and croplands have areas of bare soil where surface water runoff is causing gullies and rills that transport sediment to streams or ditches? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Is drainage from underground tiles eroding soil around tile outlets?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Is soil eroding from farm roads and transporting sediment to streams or ditches?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Financial and technical assistance may be available to help you achieve your farming and ranching goals while protecting water quality and Oregon’s natural resources. Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for more information, or go to the SWCD Directory: <https://oda.direct/SWCDDirectory>  
For information about ODA’s Agricultural Water Quality Program, contact ODA at 503.986.4700 or go to <https://oda.direct/AgWQPlans>