



Agricultural activities and protecting drinking water sources

The County of Brant is committed to providing safe drinking water

The County relies on surface water and groundwater for drinking water. Farmers are stewards of the land and have an important role in protecting drinking water sources.

We are located in the Grand River Source Protection Area of the Lake Erie Source Protection Region. Grand River Source Protection Plan policies manage activities that pose threats to drinking water sources.

Agriculture-related threats to drinking water sources

- ✓ Application, handling and storage of nutrients and pesticides
- ✓ Livestock grazing and pasturing, and livestock yards
- ✓ Fuel tanks and septic systems

Spills, leaks and overapplication can impact drinking water sources and may result in fines, costly or time-consuming clean-up and reputational damage.

We all have a role to play in protecting our drinking water.



AGRICULTURE
What happens on the land can also affect our drinking water.

How can you help protect drinking water?

- ✓ Adopt no-till or minimum-till practices and maintain cover crops
- ✓ Have soil tested to determine where and what to apply
- ✓ Avoid applying products to wet soil or before rain
- ✓ Manage livestock waste to help prevent spills and runoff
- ✓ Keep livestock away from wells, watercourses, ponds and wetlands
- ✓ Maintain at least a 3 m natural vegetated buffer around watercourses, ponds and wetlands
- ✓ Store chemicals in dry, ventilated areas away from wells, watercourses, ponds and wetlands
- ✓ Ensure fuel tanks and septic systems are properly installed, maintained and operated
- ✓ Maintain a spill response plan and train workers to respond to spills and overapplication
- ✓ Report spills and overapplication right away to the Spills Action Centre at 1.800.268.6060

Agricultural activities and protecting drinking water sources



How can farm activities affect drinking water?

What happens on the land can make its way into water. Nutrients, pesticides, livestock waste, fuel and other contaminants can enter surface water or groundwater if they are not properly managed.

💧 Products are used and stored

Nutrients, pesticides, fuel and other products are commonly used or stored on agricultural properties.

💧 Rain and runoff can move contaminants

Spills, leaks, overapplication and runoff can carry contaminants across the land. Applying products to wet soil or before rain can increase the risk of them moving away from where they were intended.

💧 Contaminants can reach water sources

Contaminants can make their way toward wells, watercourses, ponds and wetlands, potentially affecting surface water and groundwater sources. Good storage, vegetated buffers and careful application practices can help reduce the risk.

Resources

Lake Erie Source Protection Region
sourcewater.ca

Grand River Source Protection Plan
sourcewater.ca/source-protection-areas/grand-river-source-protection-area/grand-river-source-protection-plan

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
ontario.ca/page/ministry-agriculture-food-and-agribusiness

Agricultural Best Management Practices
ontario.ca/page/agricultural-best-management-practices

Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA)
ontariosoilcrop.org

Environmental Farm Plan (OSCIA)
ontariosoilcrop.org

Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre
ontarioruralwastewatercentre.ca

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
agricultural.canada.ca

Ontario Pesticide Education Program
opep.ca

Pest Management Regulatory Agency
canada.ca/en/health-canada/corporate/about-health-canada/branches-agencies/pest-management-regulatory-agency

Rural Water Quality Program
grandriver.ca/our-watershed/landowner-grants-and-stewardship-resources/rural-water-quality-program

Contact us to learn more about how to protect drinking water.

County of Brant, Risk Management Office
Operations Department,
Environmental Services Division
66 Grand River St N, Paris, ON N3L 2M2

519.442.6324 ext. 3051
sourcewater@brant.ca

