The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) works with partners to develop agricultural water quality management plans and regulations to prevent and control water pollution from agricultural activities. These regulations (Area Rules), tailored for 38 water quality areas in Oregon, apply to agricultural lands regardless of size or use. They also apply to agricultural activities on forest land and within cities and urban growth boundaries.

Water quality goals can be reached by promoting voluntary cooperation among landowners and natural resource partners to address management concerns, and by ODA enforcing water quality regulations.

ODA is leading “Strategic Implementation” initiatives, where select areas around the state receive focused outreach and education to address priority water quality concerns. ODA and natural resource partners work together with agricultural landowners to concentrate technical and financial assistance as needed. ODA will enforce water quality regulations where problems persist.

What are the Area Rules (Regulations) for my Area?

Visit www.oda.direct/AgWQPlans.aspx
Questions? Call ODA’s Ag Water Quality Management Program at (503) 986-4700
STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION AREAS

What's next?

1) Following selection, ODA conducts a Compliance Evaluation to identify potential sources of pollution from agricultural activities.
2) The local Soil and Water Conservation District will be contacting landowners offering to provide technical and potential financial assistance for conservation and restoration improvements.
3) After landowners have been given a chance to make voluntary changes, ODA will track progress toward reducing agricultural sources of pollution.
4) Properties that do not meet the requirements established in the local Area Rules (regulations) may be subject to a compliance investigation and further action by ODA.

What should I do?

Agricultural pollution can come from many sources. The Ag Water Quality Program focuses on land conditions and management that supports clean water and healthy watersheds. You should evaluate your agricultural activities and try to determine whether they might:

1) Pollute streams, canals, and/or groundwater, or
2) Prevent growth of appropriate vegetation along streams to stabilize stream banks, provide shade, and filter potential pollutants.