

**Determining if You Need an  
Agriculture Water Quality Plan**

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An Agriculture Water Quality Act producer workbook is available to assist you in developing your plan. This workbook can be found at your local conservation district office or an interactive computer version of this workbook is available on the web at :

<http://warehouse.ca.eky.edu/AWQP2000>.

For further information about The Agriculture Water Quality Act and other water quality topics, contact:

KY Division of Conservation

KY Division of Water

KY Division of Forestry

UK Cooperative Extension Service

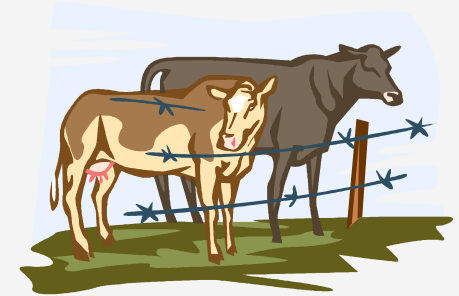
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA Farm Service Agency

- (1) Do you own 10 contiguous acres or more of land in Kentucky?
  - No = You do not need an ag water quality plan.
  - Yes = Go to question 2.
  
- (2) Is your property being used for agriculture and/or silviculture operations?
  - No = You do not need an ag water quality plan.
  - Yes = Go to question 3.
  
- (3) Do you have a conservation plan, compliance plan, or a forest stewardship plan for your operation?
  - No = You will need to develop an ag water quality plan.
  - Yes = You will need to develop an ag water quality plan or you will need to update your conservation plan, compliance plan, or forest stewardship plan so that ground and surface water is protected from pollution activities conducted on your property.

**Understanding  
Kentucky's  
Agriculture Water  
Quality Act**

*A Brief Description of the  
Process Involved in  
Implementation*



**Courtesy of  
Whitley County  
Conservation District  
1610 Cumberland Falls  
Highway, Suite 7  
Corbin, KY 40701  
(606) 523-3820**

## **What is the Agriculture Water Quality Act?**

The Agriculture Water Quality Act (AWQA) KRS 224.71-100 through 224.71-140, was passed by the Kentucky General Assembly in 1994. The goal of the Act is to protect surface and groundwater resources from pollution as a result of agriculture and silviculture (forestry) activities.

## **How does the Act define agriculture and silviculture?**

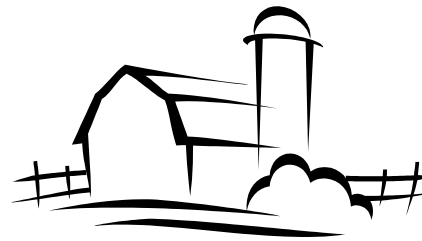
An “agriculture operation” is any farm operation on a tract of land, including all income producing improvements and farm dwellings, together with other farm buildings and structures incident to the operation and maintenance of the farm, situated on 10 contiguous acres or more of land used for the production of livestock, livestock products, poultry, poultry products, milk, milk products, or silviculture products or for the growing of crops such as, but not limited to, tobacco, corn, soybeans, small grains, fruits and vegetables, or devoted to and meeting the requirements and qualifications for payments to agriculture programs under an agreement with the state or federal government. “Silviculture” means, generally, the part of forestry that involves growing and harvesting of trees.

## **What is the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Plan?**

The KY Ag Water Quality Plan is basically a compilation of best management practices from six different areas:

- Silviculture
- Pesticides and Fertilizers
- Farmstead
- Crops
- Livestock
- Streams and Other Waters

Each BMP includes definitions and descriptions, regulatory requirements, Agriculture Water Quality Authority requirements, design information, practice maintenance, technical assistance, cost-share assistance, recommendations and references. The statewide plan serves as the guide to individual landowners/land users as they develop water quality plans for their individual operations.



## **What is the process for developing and implementing an individual water quality plan?**

All individual landowners must develop and fully implement applicable requirements of the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Plan. Technical assistance and cost-share funding is provided through local conservation district offices with assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Cooperative Extension Service and others, to landowners in developing and implementing site-specific plans.

The website version of the Ag Water Quality Workbook contains a tool (BMP generator) to be used by landowners to assess their operation and identify best management practices to be included in their individual plan.

After developing the best management practices, landowners/land users implement these practices on their land.

To certify that you have completed an Ag Water Quality Plan for your agriculture or silviculture operation, you should go to the Agriculture Water Quality Plan Self Certification link. Download, print, and complete the form and turn it in to your local conservation district office.