

UNDERSTANDING

Source Water Protection

THE GOAL: Prevent contaminants from entering waterways that serve as sources for our drinking water.

THE BENEFITS:

- ✓ Protects our drinking water supplies.
- ✓ Ensures a healthy habitat for countless species.
- ✓ Decreases need for costly, complex treatments to remove pollutants.

The source water for Middleburg Municipal Authority is from surface water intakes and a groundwater well.

Your water system has volunteered to participate in the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Source Water Protection Technical Assistance Program (SWPTAP).

THROUGH SWPTAP: A plan will be developed to guide your water system's source water protection efforts in the future. Once complete, it will be available for all customers to learn more about assisting with our source water protection efforts.



More Ways to Help



Minimize your use of pesticides and herbicides on your lawn and garden.



Bring hazardous waste (ex: paint) to recycling facilities.



Don't pour motor oil on the ground or in a storm drain. Dispose of motor oil at garages that recycle it.



Pump out your septic system every two or three years.



Do not flush any unwanted or leftover medications down the toilet or sink drain. Dispose of them at a disposal event or collection box.



Don't dump pool water into a creek or storm drain. Direct it to a sanitary sewer or foliage once chlorine diminishes.



Remember that anything you throw or store on the ground or put down the toilet will find its way into waterways.

If you observe a chemical spill, call the PA Department of Environmental Protection at 800-541-2050.

CITIZEN'S GUIDE:

Agriculture and Your Drinking Water



Middleburg Municipal Authority

This program is funded by the PA Department of Environmental Protection's Source Water Protection Technical Assistance Program.

DID YOU KNOW:

Agriculture has a huge impact on the drinking water sources throughout the state.

Much of the Pennsylvania countryside is in agricultural operations and plays a huge role in the commonwealth's production of food. Things like manure and crop sediment can impact and even contaminate drinking water sources. Because of this, farmers have a unique challenge that includes balancing efficiency with environmental stewardship.



Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Here are some examples of agriculture practices that reduce pollution.



NO-TILL PLANTING and **CONTOUR STRIPS** help to reduce loss of sediment through stormwater runoff.



STREAMBANK FENCING helps to prevent animals from depositing manure into streams. Fencing also limits the destruction of the streambanks that add sediment to the water.



BUFFER PLANTINGS along streams and creeks help filter pollutants in stormwater runoff from getting into the water.



GRAZING MANAGEMENT maintains plant life on pasture lands, reducing soil loss during rain or snow melts.



CONSERVATION and **NUTRIENT PLANS** help farmers with sustainable operations while also complying with Pennsylvania Chapter 102 and Act 38 regulations.



CREEK CROSSINGS minimize animal access to streams and reduce manure and sediment contamination.



How do contaminants get to water?

When it rains, water travels over the land surface. This is called *stormwater* or *surface runoff*. As stormwater flows, it picks up any contaminants lying on the surface.

Some precipitation, will percolate into the soil and reach the *groundwater*. Groundwater also picks up nitrates and chemicals.

Groundwater and stormwater ultimately flow into a river or lake on the watershed.

The impact of contaminants:

Once drinking water is contaminated, it must be treated or abandoned as a drinking water source. This expense can be avoided through source water protection.

For more information:



ADDITIONAL RESOURCE
**Natural Resources
Conservation Service**



ADDITIONAL RESOURCE
**Pennsylvania Association
of Conservation Districts**

Middleburg Municipal Authority

13 North Main Street | Middleburg, PA 17842
(570) 837-2533 | <https://middleburgborough.com/>

The members of your water system work around the clock to provide top quality tap water to every tap. It is a task that we take very seriously. For more information, contact us.