

Big Pine Creek Watershed Project

Best Management Practices Fact Sheet

Livestock

Conservation practices on livestock operations are typically a win-win, providing benefits to soil and water resources as well as increasing efficiency for livestock producers. For grazed livestock, rotational forage can more than double the use of efficiency. For the confined livestock, BMPs can protect the site and ease regulatory pressures. Here are just some of the advantages to livestock-related BMPs:

- Reducing suspended solids and associated contaminants in runoff.
- Reducing dissolved contaminant loading in runoff.
- Reducing erosion and improving stability to stream banks.
- Improving herd health and reducing feed costs.
- Improving soil health and soil quality.
- Reducing unwanted vegetation in pastures and along stream banks.

The NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offers assistance with many BMPs for both grazing and confined livestock producers. Contact NRCS staff to see what other programs might be available locally.



Contact Info for the Soil & Water Conservation Districts in the Big Pine Creek Watershed

Benton County: Jon Charlesworth 765-884-1090 x3 jon.charlesworth@in.usda.gov

Warren County: Deb Lane 765-762-2443 x3 debra.lane@in.nacdnet.net

White County: Sharon Watson 574-583-5962 x3 sharon.watson@in.nacdnet.net

For additional details on the various practices that comprise the conservation buffer bundle, refer to the following Natural Resources Conservation Service conservation practice standards:

- Access Control (NRCS practice code 472)
- Animal Mortality Facility (NRCS practice code 316)
- Animal Trails & Walkways (NRCS practice code 575)
- Composting Facility (NRCS practice code 317)
- Critical Area Planting (NRCS practice code 342)
- Fence (NRCS practice code 382)
- Forage Seed & Biomass planting (NRCS practice code 512)
- Heavy Use Areas (NRCS practice code 561)
- Livestock Pipeline (NRCS practice code 516)
- Prescribed Grazing (NRCS practice code 528)
- Roofs & Covers (NRCS practice code 367)
- Spring Development (NRCS practice code 574)
- Stream Crossing (NRCS practice code 578)
- Waste Storage Facility (NRCS practice code 313)
- Waste Utilization (NRCS practice code 633)
- Water Well (NRCS practice code 642)
- Watering Facility (NRCS practice code 614)

Detailed information on each of these practices can be found at:
<http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/toc.aspx?CatID=4288>

Available financial assistance:

The Big Pine Creek Watershed group will be offering cost-share incentives to help producers adopt best management practices (BMPs) aimed at reducing the amount of nutrients, sediment and bacteria entering our surface waters. **Livestock Management** is one of the suites of BMPs we want to encourage. The financial incentives for Livestock practices will come in the form of reimbursement of 75% of the prevailing NRCS EQIP payment rates with a cap of \$30,000. Applications for cost share assistance are available from the Soil & Water Conservation District offices in Benton, Warren and White counties.

- Applications for cost share assistance are available from the Soil & Water Conservation District offices in Benton, Warren and White counties.
- Closing dates for ranking periods are still to be determined. Please check the watershed group's webpage which can be accessed via the Benton County SWCD website bentoncountyswcd.org
- Applications will be ranked based on merit. Pairing conservation practices will increase the ranking score of the application.
- Successful applicants will sign a contract spelling out the terms of the cost-share agreement.
- Once the project is complete the site will be inspected by an NRCS approved conservation planner.