# Animal Waste and Drinking Water

Animal waste can contain harmful viruses and bacteria that can cause health problems for humans and other animals. Organisms like *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* are difficult to remove through standard drinking water treatment systems, and thus pose a risk to public health.

Bacterial contamination of wells in rural areas is often a direct result of animal waste. *E. coli*, a type of coliform bacteria found in the gut of animals, may leach into a losing stream or sinkhole, which are direct conduits to groundwater.

## LEARN MORE

Learn more about nutrient pollution at www.JamesRiverBasin.com/nutrients


James River Basin Partnership
www.JamesRiverBasin.com
(417) 836 - 8878

Greene County Environmental Division
www.GreeneCountyMO.gov
(417) 868 - 4147


# WATCH YOUR STEP!

## LEARN MORE ABOUT ANIMAL WASTE AND ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

# WATCH YOUR STEP

**Improperly managed animal waste can cause major problems for public health and local water quality. Urine, feces, and other byproducts from pets, livestock operations, and unnaturally concentrated wildlife can deposit harmful nutrients and bacteria into our local waterways.**

**Animal waste contains nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, which can stimulate excessive algae growth in our local rivers, lakes, and streams. If algae growth reaches a high level, the water can be robbed of oxygen, leading to fish kills. Animal waste can also contain harmful viruses and bacteria that can cause health problems for humans and other animals.**

Table Rock Lake algae bloom in the 1990s

# On the Farm

**Concentrated Livestock**

For large animal feeding operations, animal waste systems must be engineered and permitted. Only land-apply waste in areas with suitable soils and low slopes to prevent runoff. Avoid applying waste near waterways or in areas with sinkholes, caves, or springs.

**Managed Grazing Systems**

In a managed grazing system, animals are allowed to graze on a rotational basis. This spreads out animal waste and allows sections of a pasture to "rest" and regrow, which reduces soil compaction and prevents overgrazing.

**Fence Livestock Out of Streams**

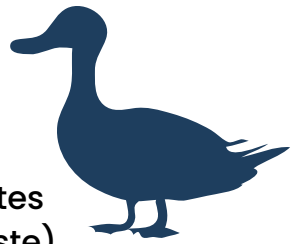
Livestock consume and trample important streamside vegetation, leading to erosion, soil compaction, and animal waste being deposited into our waterways. Where possible, fence livestock out of streams, sinkholes, and springs and provide them with an alternative water source. Where wells and waterlines aren't accessible, consider providing fenced "lanes" that provide controlled access points to the stream.

# In the Yard

**Scoop the Poop!**

Avoid an embarrassing mess and keep your pet waste from washing down your local storm drain. Whether you're at the dog park or in your own back yard, pick up after your pets and dispose of it properly. Your pets, your family, and your neighbors will appreciate it!

# At the Park



**Don't Feed the Ducks!**

Feeding wildlife unnaturally concentrates animals (and their waste), which can lead to disease transmission and conflicts with humans. Waterfowl, including the ducks and geese at your local park, can be fun to look at, but these animals have a real impact on water quality.