

# INDIANA FARMSTEAD ASSESSMENT

## FOR DRINKING WATER PROTECTION: BASIC QUESTIONS



Purdue Extension

Farming activities have the potential to impact water quality. Protect your water resources by answering these basic questions about your farmstead activities. Your answers to these questions will help you identify the need for more detailed farmstead evaluations.

**If you answer “Yes” or “Don’t Know” to any questions in one or more sections, this indicates your farm has potential high-risk areas.** To find out for sure, refer to the appropriate sections of Farmstead Assessment for Drinking Water Protection (WQ-22). See the information on the back page about how to order this free publication from Purdue University.

### I. Evaluating Drinking Water Well

*If your drinking water comes from a public water supply, go to section II.*

- |                          | Don't                    |                          |    |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----|--|--|--|--|
| Yes                      | Know                     | No                       |    |  |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. | Do you have a well less than 50 feet deep?   |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. | Do you have a dug well or driven well, rather than a drilled well?                                       |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. | Is your well more than 50 years old?   |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. | Does your well casing extend less than 12 inches above ground level?                                     |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. | Can you see any cracks or holes in your well casing?   |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. | Are there any potential sources of contamination uphill from your well?                                  |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. | Is your water supply system located closer to potential pollution sources than the local code specifies? |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. | Are there any abandoned wells on your property that have not been properly plugged?                      |  |  |  |

### II. Evaluating Pesticide and Fertilizer Handling & Storage

*If you do not store and handle pesticides and fertilizer, go to section III.*

- |                          | Don't                    |                          |    |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----|--|--|--|--|
| Yes                      | Know                     | No                       |    |  |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. | Do you store fertilizer products on your farmstead?                                |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. | Do you store pesticides on your farmstead?   |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. | Do you mix, apply, or store pesticides within 100 feet of any water supply system? |  |  |  |

	Don't						
Yes	Know	No					

- |                          |                          |                          |    |   |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. | Do you fill your sprayer tank with a hose that does not have an anti-backflow device or put the hose in the tank so that it is below the water line during filling? |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. | Do you leave your sprayer tank unattended while filling?  |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. | Do you rinse out your sprayer tank near your water supply or a body of water?   |  |  |  |

### III. Evaluating Fuel Handling & Storage

*If you do not store or handle fuel, go to section IV.*

	Don't						
Yes	Know	No					

- |                          |                          |                          |    |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. | Are there underground fuel storage tanks on your farm?                         |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. | Are any of your fuel storage tanks located near a water well or surface water? |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. | Are there signs of spills or leaks around fuel tanks?                          |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. | Are any fuel tanks outside of a containment structure or spill pad?            |  |  |  |

### IV. Evaluating Hazardous Waste Management

	Don't						
Yes	Know	No					

- |                          |                          |                          |    |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. | Do you read the labels for “warnings” or “cautions” before using a product?  |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. | Do you ever pour hazardous substances such as antifreeze, oil, paints, stains, polishes, or solvents down a sink drain or storm drain, in a ditch or tile inlet, or on the ground? |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. | Do you burn plastics, batteries, chemicals, treated lumber, or other hazardous items?  |  |  |  |

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## V. Evaluating Household Wastewater Treatment

*If your household is on a public sewer, go to section VI.*

- Don't  
Yes Know No
1. Is your septic system less than 100 feet from your well or surface water?
2. Has it been longer than three years since you had your septic tank inspected or cleaned out?
3. Do you pour grease, oil, or leftover household chemicals down your drain?
4. Does your septic system drain into a ditch, stream, field tile, or surface area?
- 

## VI. Site Evaluation

- Don't  
Yes Know No
1. Is your farm located on sandy or gravelly soils?
2. Is the depth to ground water on your farm 10 feet or less?
- 

## VII. Evaluating Livestock Waste Storage

*If you do not have livestock skip to the end.*

- Don't  
Yes Know No
1. Are your manure storage areas less than 100 feet from your well, surface waters, or field tiles?
2. Is roof or rain water and surface runoff allowed to come in contact with the manure?
3. Has your manure storage structure ever leaked or had an overflow?
- 

## VIII. Evaluating Livestock Yards Management

- Don't  
Yes Know No
1. Is your well or cistern less than 50 feet from your barnyard?
2. Is your barnyard facility located uphill from a water well, tile, or surface water?
3. Is your barnyard runoff allowed to flow freely without a collection or diversion system?
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## IX. Evaluating Silage Storage

*If you do not have cows, stop here.*

- Don't  
Yes Know No
1. Is silage stored less than 50 feet from a well?
2. Is the silage exposed to rain or surface runoff?
3. Are there any leaks in your silage storage system?
- 

## X. Evaluating Milking Center Wastewater Treatment

*If you do not have a dairy operation, stop here.*

- Don't  
Yes Know No
1. Is it more than one year between cleanings of your settling tank?
2. Does the wastewater settling or septic tank have any leaks?
3. Is the wastewater discharge absorption area located within 100 feet of your water well?
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For a complete and confidential farm assessment order Indiana Farmstead Assessment for Drinking Water Protection, (WQ-22), free of charge from:

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301 S. Second Street  
Lafayette, IN 47901-1232  
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Indiana Farmstead Assessment is a program of Purdue University. For additional information or assistance contact:

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*This worksheet was developed by Brent Ladd and Jane Frankenberger, Agricultural & Biological Engineering, with information from Indiana Farmstead Assessment for Drinking Water Protection, the National Farm\* A\* Syst materials, and the Pennsylvania Farm Evaluation System.*



**Knowledge to Go**  
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