AG. WATER QUALITY ACT

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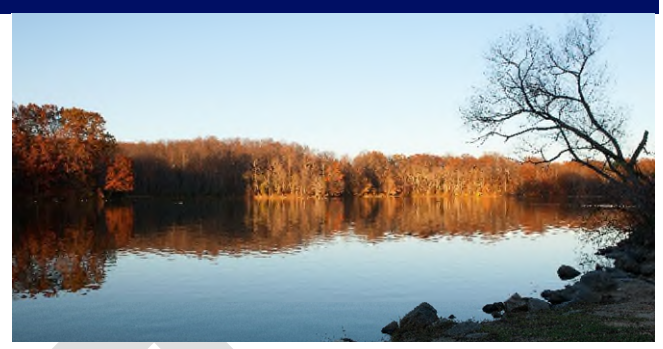

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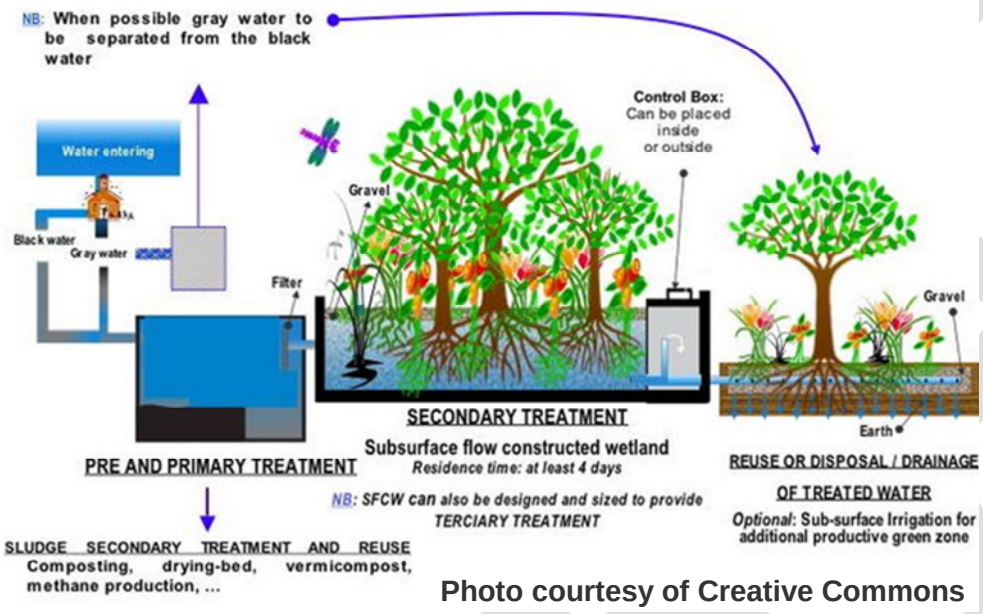
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE | **FUNDING ASSISTANCE** | **IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS**

SEPTIC SYSTEMS & ON-SITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL

FARMSTEAD BMP #2



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Description:
Operate and maintain septic systems to avoid pollution of surface water or groundwater. Septic systems/on-site sewage disposal systems typically consist of a septic tank and a drainfield (also called a leachfield, lateral field, or subsurface soil absorption beds/trenches). The system accepts both "blackwater" (toilet wastes and kitchen sink waste) and "greywater" (wastes from the bathtub, shower, and laundry). Water that should not be discharged to the system includes water from foundation or footing drains, roof gutters, and other "clear" water.

AWQA Minimum Requirements:
Follow state and local Health Department codes that specify how wastewater systems must be designed, installed and maintained. Develop and implement a Groundwater Protection Plan for a septic tank system. Operate and maintain existing septic tanks in a manner that will not pollute surface water or groundwater.

Recommendations:
Conserve home water and properly manage the wastewater treatment system to extend the effectiveness and life of the system. Prevent water that does not need treatment (rainwater, etc.) from entering the treatment system. If any of the following conditions exist, call a state licensed master plumber or certified septic system installer: • Toilets flush slowly and water drains slowly from sinks and tubs. • You notice any standing water, soggy ground, or smelly liquid in or near the drainfield. • The ground slopes toward the septic system. • Your septic tank and drainfield is less than 100 feet from a lake, stream, or pond. • Water-loving trees such as willows, sycamores, birches, or water maples are growing within 10 feet of the septic tank or lateral field. • People have driven their cars or trucks frequently in any areas over the septic tank or drainfield. • Any additions have been made to the house since the present septic system was installed. • Faucets drip or a toilet runs continuously.
Keep a Maintenance Log. Date what was done and reason for the maintenance (Example: measure sludge, pump the tank). Keep an Inspection Log. Date what you observed upon walking over the septic system (Example: any unpleasant odors, soggy soil, surfacing wastewater). Prepare a Site Drawing. Show accurately the layout of the system on your lot. Include exact distances of each portion of the system from at least two (2) fixed reference points (e.g., corner of house or garage, large trees, property line markers). Maintain any permits or receipts and record current residential address.

Technical References

University Publications
- IP-69 Household Wastewater

State Resources
- Generic Groundwater Protection Plan: Residential Septic Systems
- Homeowner Tips for Septic Systems
- Maintaining Your Septic System-A Guide for Homeowners

Funding Assistance Options

State Cost Share
- No cost share assistance is currently available for this BMP.

Kentucky Ag. Development Fund (KADB/KAFC)
- Select from available program options here.

NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Select from available program options here.

Important Considerations

Water Quality Benefit (💧-💧💧💧💧): 💧