

## Common Problems in Co Monaghan

Unsatisfactory feeding points and poor out-wintering practices can contaminate waters. Such practices are no longer acceptable.



Reduce stock if facilities are inadequate.

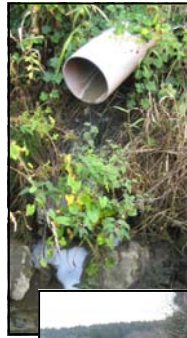


Avoid cattle access to streams particularly near drinking water sources.



Silt and soil laden waters from construction sites, ground work and drainage can contaminate water and damage fisheries. Use settlement ponds and buffer strips to minimise discharges to waters.

*Remember that if you are in the Single Payment Scheme, the Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters Regulations 2009 are also part of cross-compliance. Poor practices put the Single Payment at risk. Know how the Regulations apply to you and what you are doing on your holding.*

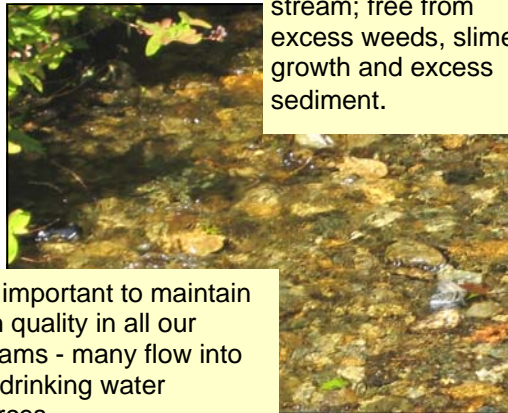


Be vigilant – regularly check drains and streams around the farmyard. Discolouration, smells or slime growths are signs of contamination.



Protect the riparian areas along lakes and rivers, - fenced buffer strips are recommended.

Example of a clean stream; free from excess weeds, slime growth and excess sediment.



It is important to maintain high quality in all our streams - many flow into our drinking water sources.

### Other Information Leaflets available:

- ◆ Good Landspreading Practice
- ◆ Prevent Silage Pollution
- ◆ Septic Tank Guidelines
- ◆ Wetlands not Wastelands



# MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

## WATER QUALITY AND GOOD FARMING PRACTICES



**Monaghan County Council is working to improve water quality. Good farming practices play an essential role in the protection of water quality.**

For more Information see  
[www.agriculture.irlgov.ie](http://www.agriculture.irlgov.ie)  
[www.icmsa.ie](http://www.icmsa.ie)  
Teagasc—047 81188

May 2008

[www.wfdireland.ie](http://www.wfdireland.ie)  
Monaghan Co Council's  
Environment Section 047 30500/30517

## Water Quality in Co Monaghan

Overall water quality in Ireland is good. However there has been a worrying increase in slight and moderate pollution over the past 25 years. Much of this is caused by enrichment of water with excessive nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrates.



Enrichment of waters can be seen in increased weed and algal growth in rivers and lakes. Sources of these nutrients include sewage, industrial and commercial discharges and agriculture.

Co Monaghan faces particular challenges, as 70% of its rivers are slightly or moderately polluted. Many of our lakes are over enriched with nutrients.

### Protecting our Water Supply Sources



In County Monaghan, there are 23 lakes and rivers and 17 bored wells (groundwater) used for public and group water scheme supply sources.

Even “slight pollution” can incur high treatment costs for Local Authorities and Group

Water Schemes in their efforts to produce clean and safe drinking water.

Information on the location of water supply sources is available at the Co Council Offices , Glen Road Monaghan or on their website—[Monaghan.ie](http://Monaghan.ie), select Planning and refer to Section 4.9 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2007-2013



Animal and human wastes contain large amounts of microbial pathogens (faecal bacteria, Cryptosporidium and viruses).

Overland runoff of contaminated water can pollute water sources. Shallow soils may render groundwater vulnerable to pollution.

### Potential Polluting Effects of Agriculture on Water Quality.

The main water pollution potential of farm wastes arises from their very high concentration of microbes and biodegradable organic matter . Organic matter in water leads to increased biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), phosphorus (P) and nitrogen (N) .

(AGMET 1992)	«	mg/litre	»
Characteristics	BOD	N	P
Silage effluent	65,000	2,700	560
Poultry slurry (layers)	35,000	14,000	5,500
Pig slurry	25,000	4,000	1,400
Cattle slurry	17,000	4,000	700
Soiled yard water	1,500	300	30
Untreated sewage	400	55	15
Clean Water	<4	<1	0.02

New Regulations on Good Agricultural Practice require high environmental standards in and around the farmyard. Many farms are currently improving facilities under the Farm Waste Management Scheme.



Provide a minimum of 22 weeks slurry storage capacity

Minimise soiled yards and divert clean waters away from slurry stores.



Provide proper guttering, down pipes and clean water diversion systems

### Common Problems



Eliminating dirty yards and minimising soiled areas reduces both storage requirements and land spreading costs.



Take care that polluting matter does not seep into under-ground drains.