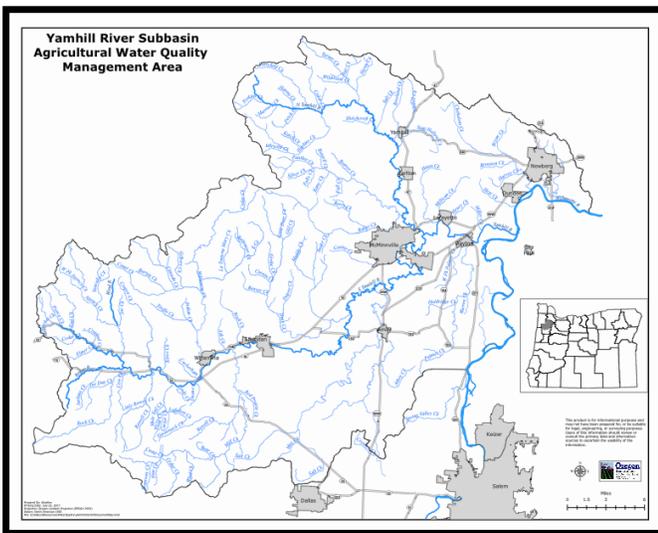


YAMHILL AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA PLAN AND RULES

The Oregon legislature passed the Agricultural Water Quality Management Act in 1993. It requires the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to prevent and control water pollution from agricultural activities.

As a result, ODA worked with the local advisory committee to develop Water Quality Management Area Plans and Rules throughout the state. ODA approved the Yamhill Area Plan and Rules in 2000.



What is the Plan?

The Area Plan is a tool that provides agricultural water quality partners and landowners information about:

- The geographic area of the Plan and its boundaries. (See map)
- Local water quality concerns in the Plan area.
- Goals and implementation strategies to encourage conservation and improve water quality.

- Optional management practices that landowners may implement to improve water quality.

The Area Plan does not tell anyone how to farm, ranch, or otherwise utilize their natural resources. Rather, it is a resource for landowners to address water quality issues. In it, they can find contacts for technical and financial assistance that will help them meet their business and conservation goals and attain water quality standards at the same time.

The water quality concerns identified for the Yamhill Management Area are:

- Bacteria
- Temperature
- Chlorophyll a
- Chlorophyll b
- Dissolved oxygen
- Iron
- Nutrients
- Manganese

What are the Regulations?

The focus of the Agricultural Water Quality Management Program is on voluntary and cooperative efforts by landowners, the Department, and others to protect water quality. However, the Agricultural Water Quality Management Act also provides for a regulatory backstop to ensure prevention and control of water pollution from agricultural sources in cases where landowners or operators refuse to correct problem conditions.

Agricultural water quality regulations (Area Rules) allow landowners flexibility in how they protect water quality. Area Rules describe

characteristics that landowners must achieved on agricultural lands rather than practices that must be implemented.

The following is a summary of regulations that apply in the Yamhill area:

1. *Landowner actions may not cause pollution to any waters of the state or place any wastes in a location where such wastes are likely to escape or be carried into the waters of the state by any means.*
2. *Riparian vegetation along streams must provide the establishment, growth, and/or maintenance appropriate to the site.*
3. *In addition, there are rules specific to erosion, livestock waste, irrigation water, nutrient applications, and chemical application.*

Do the Plan and Regulations apply to me?

The Area Plan and associated regulations apply to all lands, regardless of size, in current agricultural use and those lying idle, or on which management has been deferred. It also applies to agricultural operations within incorporated city boundaries within the designated management area boundary. The Yamhill Subbasin Management Area consists of all agricultural and rural land,

except for Federal and Tribal trust lands in Yamhill County and the northern portion of Polk County. It has an area of 769 square miles. The basin drains to the Yamhill River, which in turn, drains to the Willamette River near Dayton.

Although Chehalem Creek is not a tributary of the Yamhill River, its drainage resides within Yamhill County and is included within the Yamhill Basin boundary definition for planning purposes. The Chehalem Creek drainage basin has an area of 56 square miles and includes a few small streams that flow directly to the Willamette River near Newberg and Dundee.

What do I need to do?

You should evaluate your agricultural activities and try to determine whether they might:

- 1) Pollute streams, canals, and groundwater, and
- 2) Prevent growth of appropriate vegetation along streams.

Then you need to change any problem practices to ensure compliance with the Area Rules.



More information?

If you would like additional information or technical assistance please contact:

Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District at (503) 472-1474

OR

Oregon Department of Agriculture North Coast/ North Willamette Water Quality Specialist:

Brenda Sanchez

Desk: (503)-986-4730

E-mail: bsanchez@oda.state.or.us

Natural Resource Programs at (503)-986-4700

Visit the website for more information and copies of the area plan:

www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/NaturalResources/AgWQ/Pages/AgWQPlans.aspx