

Employee Training: Part 5

Agricultural Water Quality: Waste Management



Management of on-farm waste is an important part of maintaining water quality.

- **Waste Management BMP's:**
- Keep trash and disposal areas clean and free of debris.
- Keep dumpsters and other waste containers in good conditions. Check for areas where they have "rusted out" and could potentially leak. Securely close lids.
- Dispose of trash and other wastes in a timely manner and in appropriate containers. Do not forget the areas that are used for employee lunch tables, porta potties, handwashing areas etc.
- Materials and equipment for clean-up of trash and debris should be kept handy and in good condition.
- Inspect trash storage/disposal areas and all loading and unloading areas at least weekly for potential problems.

- Wet clean trash storage/disposal areas only if there is not possibility of discharge of the wash water.
- Load and unload of significant materials only in designated areas.
- Spills and leaks from loading and unloading must be cleaned up promptly.
- Spill response materials or a "spill kit" should be kept near loading and unloading area. Employees should be trained in the use of the spill response kit.
- If there is a stormdrain inlet near the trash storage area or the loading and unloading areas, protect it during the loading and unloading events.
- Make sure that your loading and unloading equipment such as forklifts and pallet jacks are maintained to avoid leaks of hazardous materials in the loading and unloading area.

Take a look around: Management of wastes on farm is often overlooked because it is not seen as a part of the actual farming operation. With your employees involved in managing the waste materials, loading or unloading and any other activity, review your practices and locations where waste management occurs and make sure there is no potential for your waste management methods to contribute to water quality problems.