



## What are Best Management Practices?

As defined by the EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), BMP stands for methods that have been determined to be the most effective, practical means of preventing or reducing pollution from nonpoint sources such as erosion, drainage, mud and manure.



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# LIVESTOCK & LAND

STORMWATER QUALITY  
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



Unhealthy Buffer



Healthy, Diverse Buffer

## Stream Buffer Zones

A streamside buffer zone used trees, shrubs and perennial plants to filter runoff water before it reaches the stream. Buffer zones capture sediment, nutrients, and pathogens and reduce soil erosion by creating a dense root system that will hold soil in place. Buffer zones allow native plants, animals and insects to thrive, enhancing an area's ecosystem.

## What Should I Plant?

Moisture tolerant plants:

- Indian Pink (*Spigelia marilandica*)
- Sedges (*Carex species*)
- Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum cultivars*)
- Catmint (*Nepeta x faassenii 'Walker Low's'*)
- Giant Coneflower (*Rudbeckia maxima*)
- Toad Lily (*Tricyrtis hirta*)
- Arkansas Bluestar (*Amsonia hubrichtii*)
- Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)

All of us, including horse and bovine owners, are responsible for and benefit from the use of streams that flow through property and make up our watershed. It's important for us to be diligent in caring for our streams.

Benefits of BMP implementation:

- Increased land value
- Decreased soil erosion along the stream
- Improved water quality
- Diverse wildlife habitat
- Reduced severity of flooding
- Improved aesthetic quality

## Why is action necessary?

The purpose of the TMDL (*Total Maximum Daily Load*) is to define the maximum amount of pollutants allowed to enter a waterbody or its tributaries while maintaining water quality standards. It lists potential sources of these pollutants, suggestions to reduce them, and also potential regulations.

Horse and intensive livestock facilities are identified as contributors of excess nutrients that are transported to waterbodies by manure and contaminated water runoff.

