

Maine Farm-A-Syst

Farmstead Assessment System Preliminary Screening Quiz

Why should I consider Farm-A-Syst?

Maine Farm-A-Syst will give you the necessary tools to assess your property for groundwater pollutants. It will help you recognize what you are doing right as well as practices that could use improvement. The point of this program is to help keep groundwater safe from contaminants that could effect your well, your neighbors, or public drinking water supply. Almost half of Maine's population depends on groundwater for drinking water either from a public source or private well. We are lucky to have some of the best water sources in the world, and it is everyone's job to keep them safe.

The Quiz

This quiz is a tool to help save you time and to focus on the areas of your property that really need attention. The results will be viewed by only you unless you decide to contact your local Conservation District for assistance. The results will in no way be used for enforcement purposes. The districts are here to work with you not against you.

Step 1: Answer the following questions to help you identify activities on your property that may be putting groundwater or surface water at risk.

Step 2: If you answered "Yes" or "Don't Know" to any of the following questions, water from your property could potentially threaten your health, the value of your property, the health of people downstream or those who rely on public drinking water. For all the sections where you answered "Yes" or "Don't Know" please refer to the specific fact sheets and worksheets listed at the end of each set of questions.

1. HOW SAFE IS YOUR WELL?

Yes	No	Don't Know	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Do you have a well less than 50 feet deep?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Do you have a dug well or driven well, or is your well more than 50 years old?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Does your well casing extend less than 12 inches above ground level or can you see any cracks or holes in you well casing?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Are there any potential sources of contamination uphill from your well (i.e., confined or grazing animals, fertilizer or pesticide storage areas)?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Are there any abandoned wells on your property that have not been properly sealed?

-
6. Does more than one year go by between well tests?
-

Refer to the Drinking Water Well Condition Fact Sheet & Worksheet.

2. RISKS FROM PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS

Yes	No	Don't Know	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Do you store fertilizer products on your farmstead that are not undercover and on a cement floor?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Do you mix, apply, or store pesticides or fertilizers within 100 feet of any water supply system, stream or lake?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Does your sprayer tank have an anti-backflow device?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Do you put the fill hose in the tank so that it is below the waterline during filling?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Do you leave the sprayer tank unattended while filling?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Do you rinse out your sprayer tank near your water supply?

Refer to the Pesticide Storage and Handling Fact Sheet & Worksheet as well as the Fertilizer Storage and Handling Fact Sheet & Worksheet.

3. RISK FROM FUELS

Yes	No	Don't Know	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Are there underground fuel storage tanks on your farm or acreage?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Are any of your above ground or underground fuel storage tanks located within 300 feet of a water well or stream or lake?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Are there signs of spills or leaks around any fuel tanks?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Do you have any fuel tanks that are not located in a containment structure or spill pad?

Refer to the Petroleum Product Storage Fact Sheet & Worksheet.

4. RISKS FROM HAZARDOUS WASTES

Yes	No	Don't Know	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Do you use products without following the directions on the "warning" or "caution" labels?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Do you ever pour hazardous substances such as antifreeze, oil, paints, stains, polishes or solvents down a sink, drain, storm drain, in a ditch, or on the ground?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Do you burn plastics, batteries, chemicals, treated lumber, or other toxic items?
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Do you have an area on your property where you dump waste?
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	---

Refer to the Improving Hazardous Waste Management Fact Sheet & Worksheet.

5. HOW SAFE IS YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM?

Yes	No	Don't Know
-----	----	------------

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Is your septic system less than 100 feet from your well or surface water?
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Has it been more than three years since you had your septic tank inspected or cleaned out?
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	---

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Do you pour grease, oil, or leftover household chemicals down your drain?
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Do you ever see evidence of standing or "smelly" water that may have come from your septic system?
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	---

Refer to the Household Wastewater Treatment Fact Sheet & Worksheet.

6. LIVESTOCK WASTE STORAGE

Yes	No	Don't Know
-----	----	------------

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Is your long-term storage tank built on high permeability soils (like sand and gravel)?
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Is your short term storage area on high permeability soil or a water table or bedrock shallower than 3 feet?
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	---

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Is your short-term livestock waste storage located less than 300 feet upslope from a well?
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	---

Refer to the Livestock Waste Management Fact Sheet & Worksheet.

7. LIVESTOCK/LOOSE HOUSING YARDS MANAGEMENT

Yes	No	Don't Know
-----	----	------------

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Is your on-site water-supply system less than 100 feet from your barnyard?
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	---

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Does runoff from your barnyard or manure collection area flow into streams and rivers?
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	---

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. During rain events, does runoff from a roof or yard come in contact with manure?
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	---

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. During rain events, does runoff from loose housing come in contact with manure?
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Are your manure storage areas located less than 100 feet or uphill from your well or surface waters?
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	---

Refer to the Livestock Yards Management Fact Sheet & Worksheet.

8. SILAGE STORAGE

Yes	No	Don't Know	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Is your silage moisture content over 71%?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Is your silage storage location 100 feet or less upslope of a well?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Is there a problem with your silo leachate collection system?

Refer to the Silage Storage Fact Sheet & Worksheet.

9. EVALUATING MILKING CENTER WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Yes	No	Don't Know	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Does your settling tank have a concrete, plastic or clay liner?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Do you clean your settling tank less often than once a year?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Do you apply your milkhous wastewater to an above-ground or below-ground absorption field?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Is your wastewater discharge absorption area located within 100 feet of your water supply system?

Refer to the Milking center Wastewater Treatment Fact Sheet & Worksheet.

10. EVALUATING IRRIGATION WELL HEADS

Yes	No	Don't Know	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Is your well downslope from a known/potential pollution source?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Does your well have a concrete casing with unsealed joints or no casing at all?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Is the fuel tank for your irrigation pump(s) less than 50 feet from the well?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Do you mix within 50 feet from the well site?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Do you chemigate without anti-pollution equipment such as backflow prevention?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Do you test your well less than 1 time per year?

Refer to the Irrigation Well Fact Sheet & Worksheet.

