

# Small Farms Cost-Sharing

Sherburne Soil And Water Conservation District



Several reaches of the Elk River are currently listed on the Environmental Protection Agency's list of *Impaired Waterways*. The impairment is due to excessive amounts of bacteria, which pose a health risk to those using the water for fishing, canoeing, swimming, or consumption. The sources of the bacteria include septic systems, wild animals, and baryard runoff from livestock.

**- Sherburne SWCD offers several programs to assist landowners in reducing bacteria transport to the river -**

## Manure Management:

Proper manure management techniques include livestock fencing, composting bins/stalls or other manure storage facilities..

## Buffer Strips:

Vegetated buffers may intercept or remove pollutants and sediment in the following percentages from runoff: 50% or more of nutrients and pesticides, 60% or more of some pathogens, and 75% or more of sediment. Deep rooted plants and wider corridors are more effective at protecting water quality and promoting groundwater recharge.

## Pasture Management:

Livestock rotation plans, pasture plantings, and tilling plans all help to create healthy pastures that provide good nutrition, physically strengthen soils, and provides good vegetation to retain manure and nutrients during periods of heavy rain.

## Stormwater Runoff:

Controlling the flow of water on your property is crucial for reducing bacteria transport and solving erosion problems. Stormwater runoff can be directed with vegetated plantings, French drains, rain gardens, constructed berms, or a variety of other solutions.



**Left:** A gutter system diverts rain water from a barn roof to an underground French drain ponding area, where it permeates the sandy soils instead of increasing water on a nearby pasture.



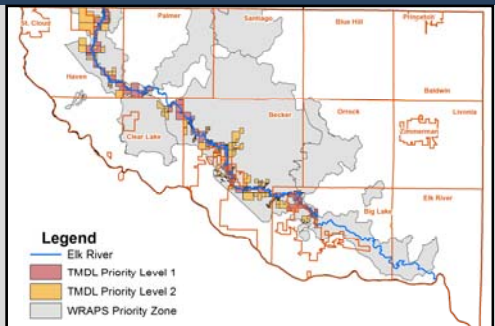
**Right:** Composting stalls are a great solution for breaking down the pathogens in manure and creating a soil mixture that is a great addition to vegetable gardens.

## Technical and Financial Assistance



Sherburne SWCD staff have the experience to help you address all your small farm or hobby farm needs! Site visits and consultations are completed free of charge, as are many technical designs.

Through a grant provided by the State Minnesota's Clean Water & Legacy Amendment, the Sherburne SWCD can now provide up to 75% financial assistance towards projects located in Priority Zones near the Elk River, as determined by recent scientific studies. Contact our office today to see if you may qualify!



## Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District

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