

Update: Voluntary Clean Water Guidance for Agriculture

- Where we have been.
- How we will use the guidance.
- How we will organize the guidance.
- Tillage and Residue Management.
- Next Steps.

Voluntary
Clean Water
Guidance for
Agriculture



March 2019



Voluntary Clean Water Guidance



History in less than a minute....

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History



Uses	How will it be used
Ecology Funding Guidelines	Inform changes to our funding guidelines (e.g. additional/new BMPs that could be eligible; design criteria changes for currently funded BMPs; etc.)
TMDLs (and other watershed clean-up plans)	Provide technical information to support implementation plans and describe what practices can achieve reductions necessary to meet load allocations.
Technical Assistance	Provide technical information on what BMPs are effective at preventing water pollution and meet WQ standards. Basis for BMP recommendations.
Education and Outreach	Provide technical information on what BMPs are effective at preventing water pollution and meet WQ standards. Information for outreach materials.
Certainty	Provide certainty to landowners (i.e. what practices are effective at protecting WQ)
Other Programs	Provide technical information on what BMPs are effective at preventing water pollution and meet WQ standards.
Trading Program	Provides baseline information that could be used for developing a trading program

How will we use the guidance?



Voluntary Clean Water Guidance for Agriculture Volumes

Volume I Cropping Methods: Tillage & Residue Management

Volume II Cropping Methods: Crop System

Volume III Nutrient Management

Volume IV Pesticide Management

Volume V Sediment Control: Soil Stabilization & Sediment Capture (Vegetative)

Volume VI Sediment Control: Soil Stabilization & Sediment Capture (Structural)

Volume VII Water Management: Irrigation Systems & Management

Volume VIII Water Management: Field Drainage & Drain Tile Management

Volume IX Water Management-Stormwater Control & Diversion

Volume X Livestock Management-Pasture & Rangeland Grazing

Volume XI Livestock Management-Animal Confinement, Manure Handling & Storage

Volume XII Riparian Areas & Surface Water Protection

How are we organizing the guidance?



Finishing Tillage and Residue Management Guidance:

- Recommendations.
- Flexible approach.
- NRCS/CDs-very helpful feedback.
- Have the latest draft out to full advisory group.

Volume I
Cropping Methods: Tillage & Residue Management
Voluntary Clean Water Guidance for Agriculture

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Introduction



This guidance describes tillage and residue management practices that support healthy farms and help producers meet clean water standards. It is intended as a technical resource for the agricultural community and to complement existing guidance on agricultural conservation practices, such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office Technical Guides (FOTGs). It does not replace the FOTGs or the farm planning process, and does not establish any new regulatory requirements. However, this guidance should be considered when identifying tillage practices intended to protect water quality and meet Washington State water quality standards. Ecology will use this guidance to help make funding decisions for grant programs, to inform watershed cleanup plans, and to provide technical assistance, education, and outreach.

The Clean Water Act requires the Department of Ecology (Ecology) to develop and maintain guidance on best management practices (BMPs) to protect water quality. Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act requires that state nonpoint source (NPS) management programs "identify best management practices and measures to control each category and subcategory of nonpoint sources." Guidance from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) further establishes that state nonpoint source (NPS) management programs must include an "identification of measures (i.e., systems of practices) that will be used to control NPS pollution, focusing on those measures which the state believes will be most effective in achieving and maintaining Water Quality Standards."

Guidance in the agricultural sector is difficult. Ecology recognizes that each farm is unique, and each producer is managing a unique set of site, soil, and climate factors. Ecology also recognizes that conservation planning often addresses numerous conservation and production goals, in addition to water quality protection. This guidance recommends and assesses BMPs to identify practices that best protect water quality and support meeting water quality standards. This information can be considered during the farm planning process and when deciding which practices to implement. Often, a combination of practices will need to be implemented at a site to protect water quality and support meeting water quality standards. In some cases, a producer might decide to use a different approach (e.g., buffers or filter strips) instead of tillage practices to meet conservation goals.

Tillage and Residue Management

Next set of practices:

- Animal/Forage & Pasture Management
- Crop Systems
- Riparian Protection
- Animal Confinement & Management, Manure Handling & Storage

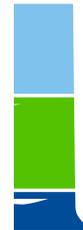
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Next Steps



Questions and Discussion

