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ABSTRACT

Students grades 4-8 can use this guide to explore the topics of water, and water conservation on a farm or ranch, while conducting an environmental community service project. Youth groups, led by a group leader, work with local experts from business, government, or environmental organizations to complete the project. Nine activity sections involve students in: (1) exploring background information; (2) mapping watersheds; (3) researching water quality impacts associated with farm or ranch sites; (4) consulting with an expert; (5) choosing a service project; (6) creating an action plan; (7) tracking project progress; (8) measuring and recording results; and (9) brainstorming additional projects. Activities provide background and procedural information, as well as worksheets and discussion questions. Sidebars highlight key vocabulary. The guide contains an application for a Youth Earth Service Award and advice on how to create partnerships with community organizations. (LZ)

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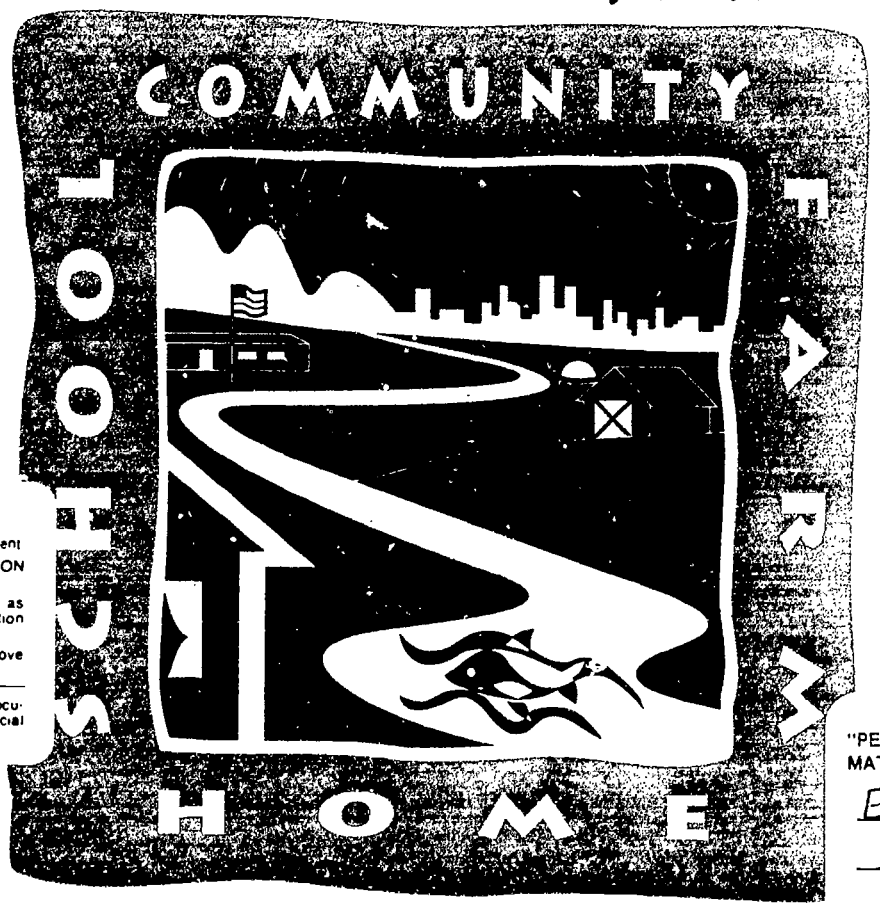
Environmental Stewardship

GIVE WATER A HAND

Get a blue thumb!



Give water a hand®

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FARM AND RANCH SITE ACTION GUIDE

ORGANIZING WATER CONSERVATION AND POLLUTION PREVENTION SERVICE PROJECTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Made Possible With Support From:

- *Church & Dwight Co., Inc.*
  Makers of Arm & Hammer® Baking Soda
- *National Fish and Wildlife Foundation*

1994

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WELCOME!

Your ideas, energy, creativity and hard work can make a difference for your community and for the earth! This *Farm and Ranch Action Guide* will help you organize your own service projects to *Give Water a Hand!*

In many of the best environmental service projects, young people work together with experts from businesses, government or environmental organizations. Your group leader can work with you to find a local expert, or Partner, who can help you with your project. National *Give Water A Hand* Partners, and the resources they offer, are listed in the *Leader Guidebook.*

AWARDS

You can use these materials at any time. If you choose to participate in *Give Water A Hand* during '94-95, your group has an opportunity to earn a Youth Earth Service Award. These awards will be presented to selected participants at the United Earth ceremonies in Washington, D.C. during National Drinking Water Week, May 7 - 13, 1995.
To apply for this award, you must complete your project, fill out the recognition form (on page 27) and send it in no later than March 1, 1995.

PLANNING YOUR TIME

To complete a service project, your group needs a timeline. There are nine activities in this book. Each activity has a timeline estimating how long it will take. Take a few minutes now to fill in the dates when you think you will do each activity. Remember, to apply for recognition, you must submit your application by Marc 1, 1995.

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Target Dates: _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

(Write in your target date for each section)

WHAT TO DO RIGHT AWAY

1. Order a topographic map of your site. See *Leader Guide* page 1 for instructions on ordering.
2. Find a local water expert to help you with your project. See the back cover of this guide.
3. Send in the registration form accompanying these materials.

PROJECT NOTEBOOK

Use the Project Notebook to keep notes, names and phone numbers. You'll need this information for the Give Water A Hand Recognition Form.

Your name:

Your group's name:

WHY WATER?

1A) MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

YOUNG PEOPLE IN OHIO DID THIS!

Wouldn't it be fun to have a wetland on your school grounds? Students in the Groveport Madison Schools in central Ohio are helping to restore 85 acres of wetlands on school property. A committee of students, teachers, administrators and community members oversees the project. Students have been studying the environment of the proposed wetlands area and conducting water quality tests. One said "I loved it. I was finally involved in hands-on education without the boundaries of book covers."

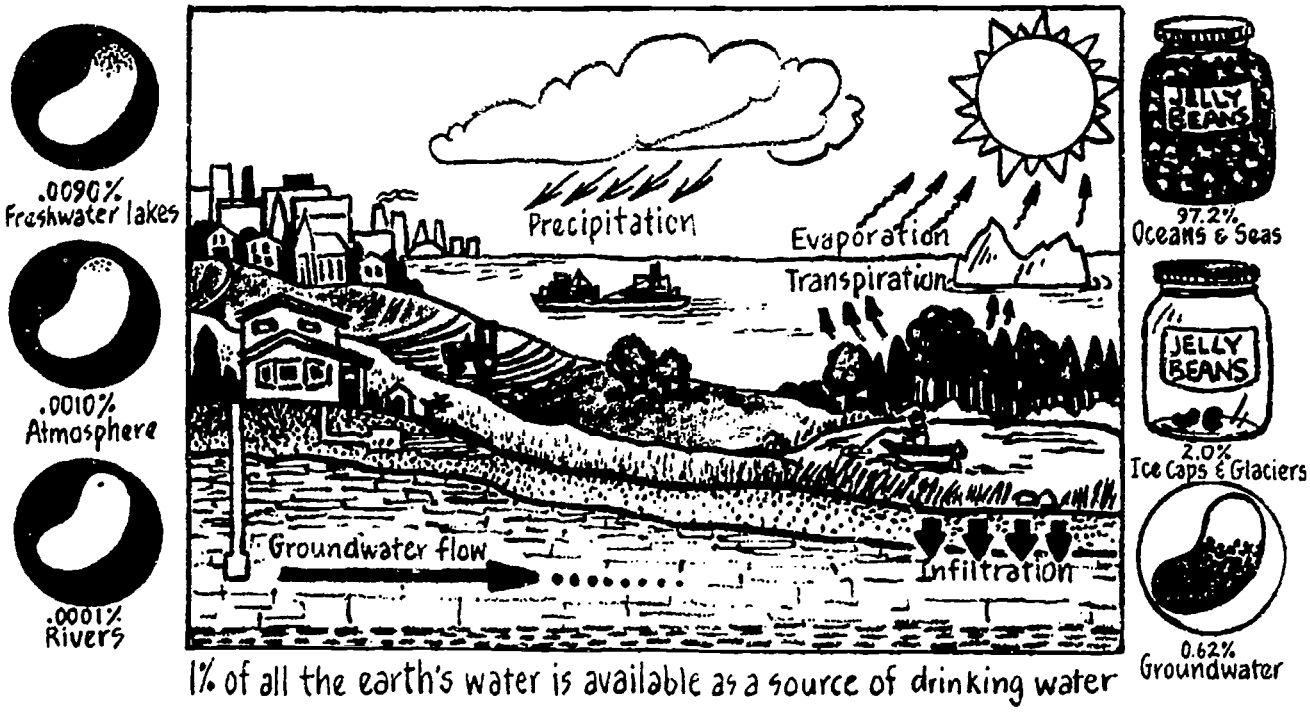
YOUNG PEOPLE IN FLORIDA DID THIS!

Imagine... you are the teacher and your parents are the students! In Pinellas County, Florida, young people taught their families about water conservation. As part of a "Summer Water Camp" participants did a Home Water Check-Up to identify ways they could conserve water at home. The young people taught their families practices such as taking shorter showers and using rain gauges. One girl's family saved over 30,000 gallons of water in a year!

THOUSANDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND THE COUNTRY HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH WATER CONSERVATION AND POLLUTION PREVENTION PROJECTS.

YOU CAN ORGANIZE YOUR OWN PROJECT WITH HELP FROM EXPERTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

WATER CYCLE



1% of all the earth's water is available as a source of drinking water

Evaporation: Water changing to a gas or vapor and disappearing into the air.

Evapotranspiration: Water evaporating from plants.

Runoff: Rain or snow melt that flows over land into rivers, lakes, reservoirs or other bodies of water instead of soaking into the ground.

Starting Date: _____ Completion Date: _____

You are here...

❑ 1A Why Water	❑ 1B-Ecological Address	❑ 1C-Research	❑ 2A-Input	❑ 2B-Choose	❑ 2C-Plan	❑ 3-On Track	❑ 4A-Celebration	❑ 4B-Next Steps

Target Date: _____

WHY IS WATER SO IMPORTANT?

Did you know that you are mostly water? You probably drink six to eight cups of water, milk, fruit juice, or soda each day. Animals and plants are almost all water too. Three quarters of the earth is covered with water, although most of it can't be used by people, plants or animals. So we don't just use water, we are water.

Water makes life on earth possible. You depend on water for drinking, cleaning, growing and processing food, growing cotton for cloth, swimming, fishing, boating, cooking, putting out fires and generating electricity through hydropower dams. Try to think of one item or action that doesn't involve water!

Water also connects us to the rest of the natural world – plant and animal communities depend on water in many of the same ways: for food, water and shelter. Since every drop is used again and again, water is recycled. We share this precious resource with all other living things — past, present and future.

Unfortunately, people do not always use water wisely. We have used it to carry away our waste. We've put hazardous materials in or on the ground where they seep into groundwater. We've often used more water than we need. Yet we can improve our water resource: by conserving water at home, cleaning waste from cities before it returns to rivers or lakes, and preventing pollutants from washing into waterways with the rain.

Brainstorm a list of the ways people can affect water. Try to think of both good and bad ways. Keep your list; you'll add to it later.

Changing the small ways that people affect water can have a big effect on improving our water quality now and protecting it from future pollution. What you do on your farm or ranch, or in your house, yard, road, parks, businesses, and schools can conserve water and improve its quality. You've already begun to make a difference by picking up this book. Keep going to learn what you can do to *Give Water a Hand!*

POWER WORDS

(Definitions of words you might not know)

Pollution: An undesirable change in air, water or land that can cause harm to human health, animals or plants. Hazardous chemicals and animal waste, for example, can be pollutants.

Conserve: Using natural resources, such as water, in a way which does not harm them or use them up.

Hazardous materials: Materials that can cause harm to people or the environment.

Groundwater: Water found in the ground in cracks and spaces between rocks and soil particles.

Water quality: "Quality" means how good or bad something is. Water must be good quality, with very few pollutants, before we can drink it safely.

List at least 10 ways you personally use water.

List how people affect water in good and bad ways.

NEXT TIME:
Bring all your maps, a sheet of clear plastic as big as your biggest map (from art stores or office supply stores), a piece of cardboard as big as your map, thumb tacks, dry erase markers, tissues and pencils. Your group can make a bigger difference if you team up with a local expert. Invite him or her to come next time to help and advise your group as you map your watershed. (See the back cover of this guide if you don't yet have an expert to help you understand your site.)

WHAT'S YOUR ECOLOGICAL ADDRESS?

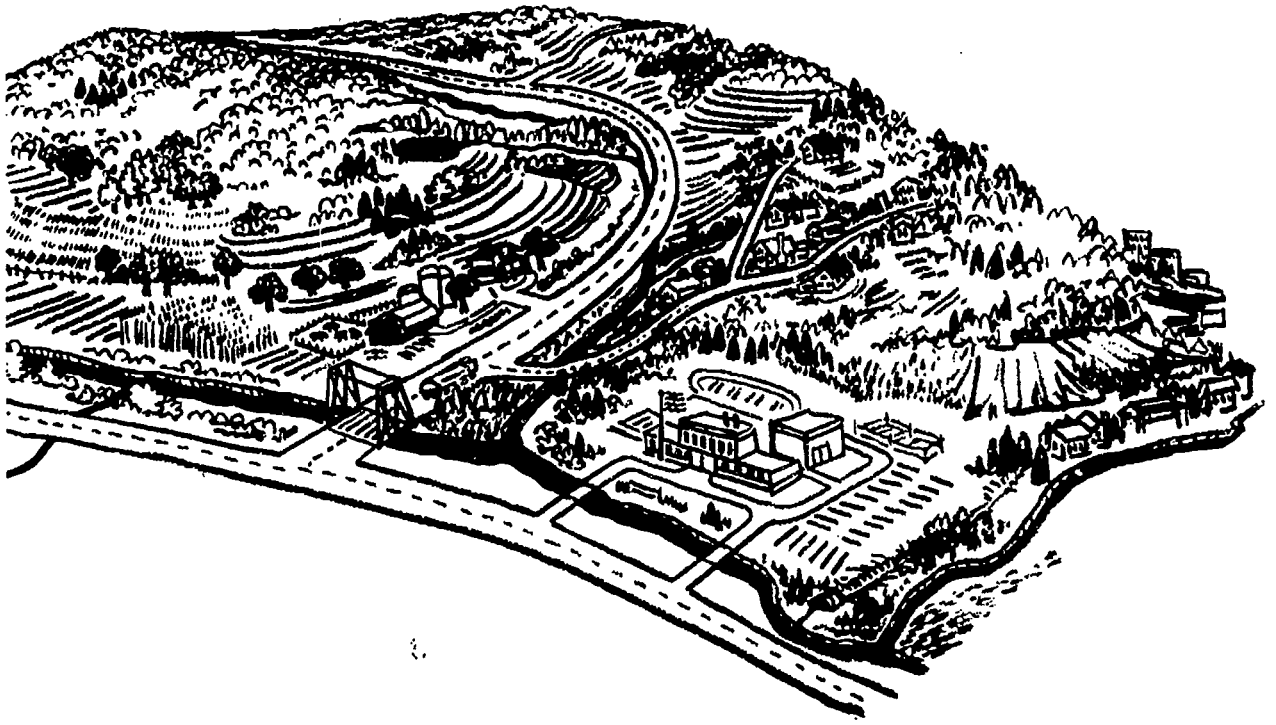
1B) MAP YOUR WATERSHED

A mailing address helps the Post Office deliver letters to the right place. An "ecological address" can help you find rivers and streams in your community and help you find ways to work on water issues. Local streams empty into larger streams, rivers or lakes, which may empty into a larger river, which empties into an ocean or the Great Salt Lake. Your ecological address includes all of the land (farms, towns, mountains) around these waterways.

To work on water issues, you should know where your water comes from, where it goes after you use it, and what streams, rivers, lakes or coastal areas are in your watershed. A good tool to help collect and record all of this information is called a watershed map. This will help later as you find out what needs to be done in and around your community and plan service projects to conserve and protect water.

In urban areas, streams sometimes flow through pipes underground. If you live in a city or large town, ask an expert if there used to be any streams or wet areas in town. In dry climates, streams and rivers may only flow after snowmelt or during the rainy season. Look for dried-up waterways.

Picture A Watershed



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You are here...

1A Why Water	1B Ecological Address	1C-Research	2A-Input	2B-Choose	2C-Plan	3-On Track	4A-Celebration	4B-Next Steps

Target Date: _____

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO KNOW YOUR WATERSHED?

"To protect your rivers,
protect your mountains."
- Emperor Yu of China, 1,600 B.C.E.

You are part of a watershed. This means that everything you do can affect nearby surfacewater and groundwater — for better or worse. This watershed is a geographical community which includes all the humans, plants and animals who live in it and non-living parts, such as rocks and soil. As China's Emperor Yu understood long ago, whatever happens upstream in a watershed affects everything downstream. To improve the water quality of a stream, look at the whole area it drains. Anything dumped on the ground in the watershed can end up in its waterbody. What's more, we all live downstream.

Think about this: most of us drink water from our local watershed. Although some people get water from elsewhere (Los Angeles gets water from distant mountains, for example), most of us get it from a local well or a nearby lake or river. It may come directly from a private well on your farm, or indirectly through a government water department or utility. The utility draws water from a nearby source, and some of them treat or clean it, then they pipe it to homes, schools and businesses.

After water is used, it goes down the drain, to a private septic system, or through the sewer to a wastewater treatment plant. There it is treated, or cleaned, before it is sent back into local lakes, oceans or rivers. You can help yourself and the public utilities by using less water and by keeping pollutants out of wastewater.

POWER WORDS

Watershed: An area of land where all water drains, or "sheds", to the same river, reservoir or other body of water.

Altitude: How many feet something is above sea level. (The sea is a good place to start because it is nearly the same height all around the world.)

Topographic map: A map with lines to show the height or altitude of hills, valleys, mountains, etc. Each line connects points at the same altitude.

Waterbody: A specific area where water is found, such as streams, rivers, wetlands, ponds, reservoirs, groundwater, lakes, or oceans.

Wastewater (sewage) treatment plant: A place where used water (from toilets, washing machines, industries) is pumped to be cleaned and purified before it is returned to local waterways.

Septic tank: An underground storage tank for wastes from homes with no sewer line to a treatment plant.

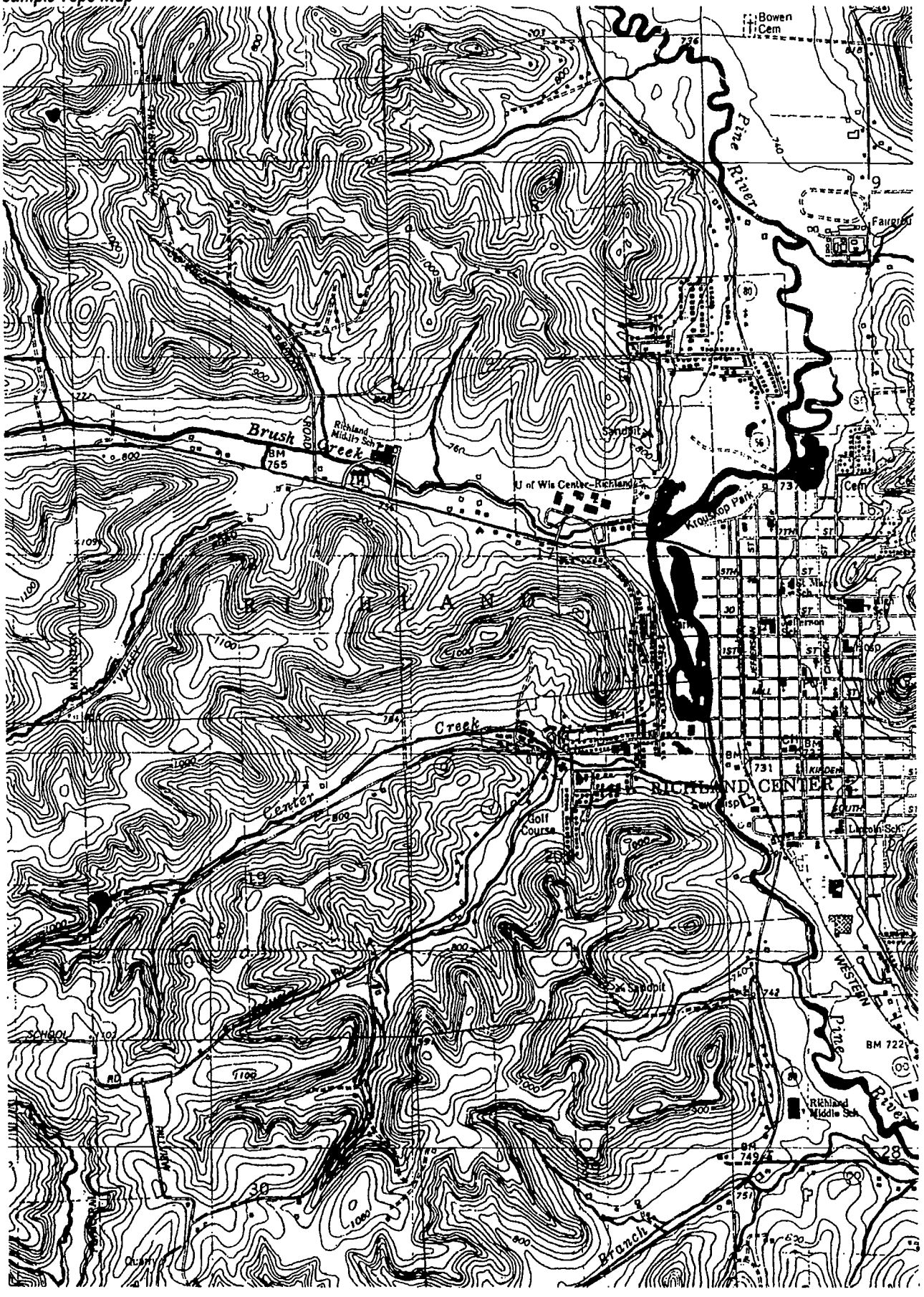
Describe your watershed. What kinds of plants and animals live in it? Is it in a city or the country? Tell a story about a rain drop that falls on your farm or ranch site.

Where does your farm or ranch's drinking water come from?

Where does your wastewater go?

Keep your Watershed Map. You'll need it later.

Sample Topo Map



MAPPING THE WATERSHED

Look at the Sample Topographic Map on page 5. This map includes the watershed pictured on page 7. Can you find this watershed on the map? *See Using Maps, page 7 in the Leader Guidebook if you need to learn more about how to read maps.*

To complete these activities on your maps, you may need help from a local water expert. *See Get Partner Support on back cover for ideas on how to find and talk to helpful experts.*

You can work together on one person's farm or ranch, or you can each work on your own farm or ranch. If you decided to work on more than one, you will need to get maps for each site.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Topographic map or maps which include your farm site and any other maps you have collected of the area,
- a clear sheet of plastic as big as your topographic map (this plastic is called mylar or acetate and is available at art supply stores or office supply stores for a few dollars),
- a piece of cardboard as big as your map,
- thumb tacks,
- dry erase markers & tissues

HOW TO DRAW THE OUTLINE OF YOUR OWN WATERSHED.

1) Place the clear sheet of plastic over the topographic map (topo map) and tack both onto the cardboard. If you don't have plastic, make a photocopy of the map and draw on it in pencil.
2) On the topo map, find and mark your farm or ranch. A road map can help you find things.
3) Find the streams, ditches, marsh , lakes, oceans or rivers closest to the community site and mark them in blue on the map.

> Some water may flow underground through pipes or conduits

4) Use the contour lines and numbers on the topo map to find the highest and lowest points around your farm or ranch. Mark the hilltops with "Xs".
5) From these "Xs", draw arrows on your map to show the flow of runoff. Which direction will rain or snow that falls on your community site flow? Where does runoff flow into waterbodies?

> Think like water. Water always flows down hill. It always takes the easiest path. If you go outside and look or walk down hill from your community site – never going up – you will come to a waterbody sooner or later. Remember, it may flow underground in pipes. Look for openings where water enters the storm drains.

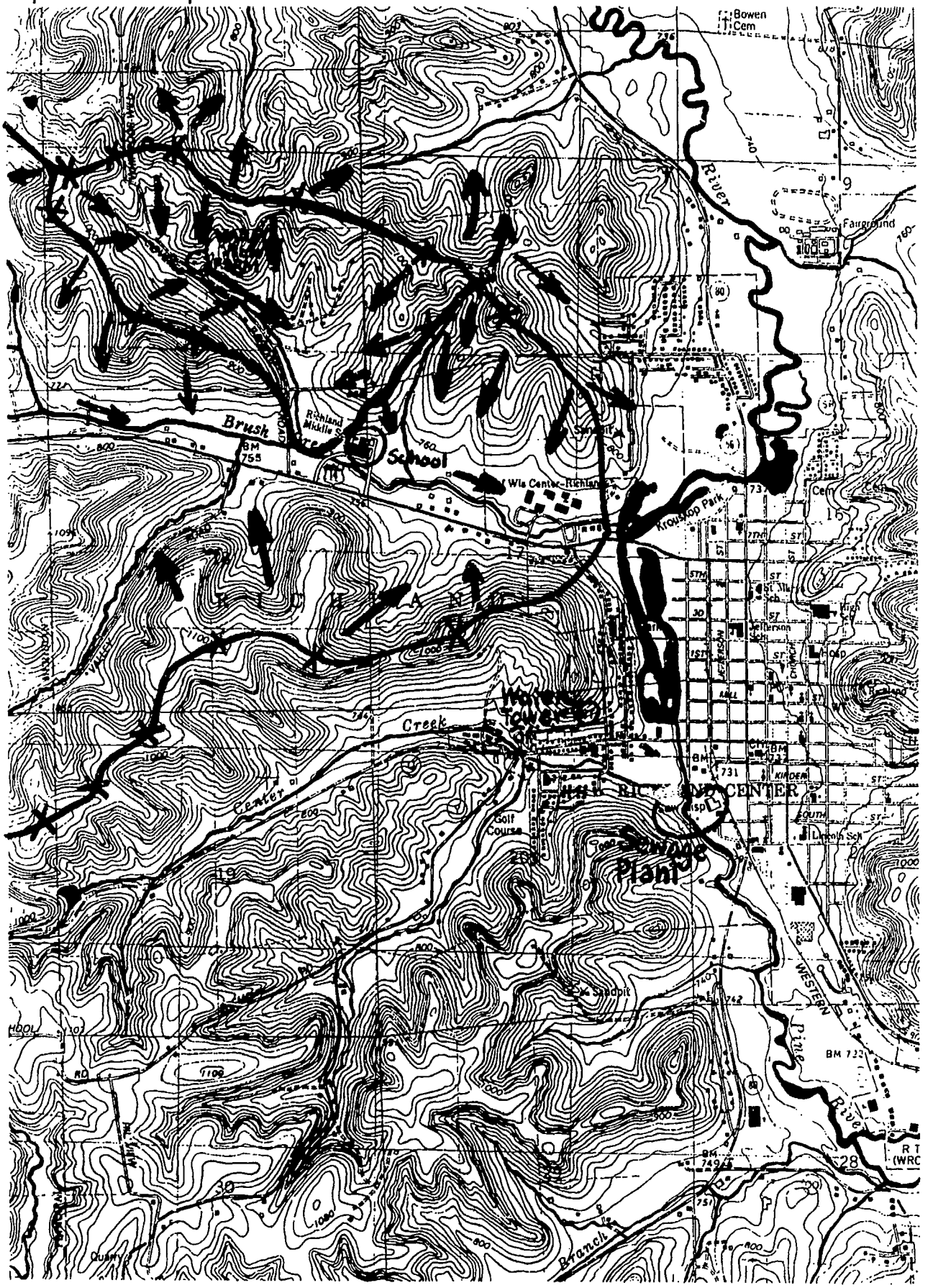
6) Look at the Sample Watershed Map on page 7. It has the outlines of watersheds already drawn. Look at the arrows showing where water flows. The outline of each watershed is between waterbodies, mostly along the tops of ridges or hills.
7) On your own map, find the highest ground (the hills and ridges) between two waterbodies. Draw a line along the highest points (connecting the "Xs" on hill tops) completely around your stream, including its bottom end or "mouth." What is the name of the waterbody that drains your farm's or ranch's watershed? Write the name on your map.

Two small streams can be part of a larger river's watershed. What larger watershed is your farm or ranch in?

8) Bring the map outside. Where is the highest point of land you can see? Walk to that point. Is your community site at the top or bottom of a hill? Where does water go when it rains or snows? Can you see the nearest waterbody? Can you see hills, mountains, grain elevators, buildings, airports, power lines, railroad tracks or other things that are on the map? Look at your map and find these features.
9) Where do you get your drinking water? *You may need to ask an expert.* Find and mark the source or sources if they are on your map.
10) Where does your community's wastewater go? Wastewater may be filtered through a septic tank or pumped through underground pipes to a wastewater treatment plant. Find it and mark it if it's on your map.

NEXT TIME:
Make enough copies of the Needs Checklist for each person or team. Get permission from the farmer or rancher to do the Needs Checklist.

Completed Watershed Map



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

1C) RESEARCH NEEDS

POWER WORDS

Priority: What is most important; what comes first.

Wetland: Marsh-like area with soil that is saturated with water some or all of the year.

Rotational Grazing: Dividing a pasture into two or more areas for grazing and moving livestock from one pasture to another at scheduled times.

Erosion: The wearing away of land surface by wind and water. It often occurs where bare soil is exposed.

HOW TO USE THE NEEDS CHECKLIST

Look at the Needs Checklist beginning on page 11. The questions refer to four topics:

- WATER CONSERVATION
- DRINKING WATER QUALITY
- WATER QUALITY IN OUR ENVIRONMENT
- EDUCATING ABOUT WATER

Each question has one or more icons, or pictures, next to it for quick reference.

In the last activity, you mapped the watershed around your community site. Now think about what you and other people do ion your farm or ranch that affects the watershed. What activities use water? What activities create waste water? What kinds of fun do you have with water? What do you already do to conserve or protect water? Think about inside and outside. Brainstorm these activities for a few minutes and see how many you come up with. (Two examples are: irrigating fields or swimming in a pool.) Have someone write down the activities you come up with. Keep the list for later.

Many of the activities you listed affect the water in your watershed. To determine how, and to help you choose a service project, you will use a Needs Checklist. The Needs Checklist will help you to identify specific water needs or issues, and determine which need your action. You will figure out what is already being done and what still needs to be done on your farm or ranch to protect the watershed and conserve water This will help ensure you work on a real need so your time is well spent.

Compare the questions to your list of activities from brainstorming. Write any activities that are not on the Needs Checklist in the blanks at the end of each section. Your group can do the whole Checklist together at one farm or ranch, you can break into teams and go to different farms or ranches, or you can each go to your own farm or ranch.

Go over the Needs Checklist with your group leader.

- Which items can you do something about?
- Which require you to work with someone else?

Some questions on the list will be simple to answer. For other items, you may need to ask for help or permission from your parents, the farmer or rancher, or whoever is responsible for the activity. This could also include any hired help. Some questions require simple tests. *For more help answering Needs Checklist questions, see the Needs Checklist section on page 9 in the Leader Guidebook.*

You may need to ask for help from the farmer or rancher to get something changed. Be sure to get permission from the farmer or rancher before you begin the Needs Checklist, and to get their final approval before you begin any projects. You may also want to talk to your local County Extension Agent or Conservation District Officer for assistance in answering questions.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

- Make a Site Map, see page 9 for directions.
- Follow directions for completing the Needs Checklist on page 10.

Starting Date: _____ Completion Date: _____

You are here...

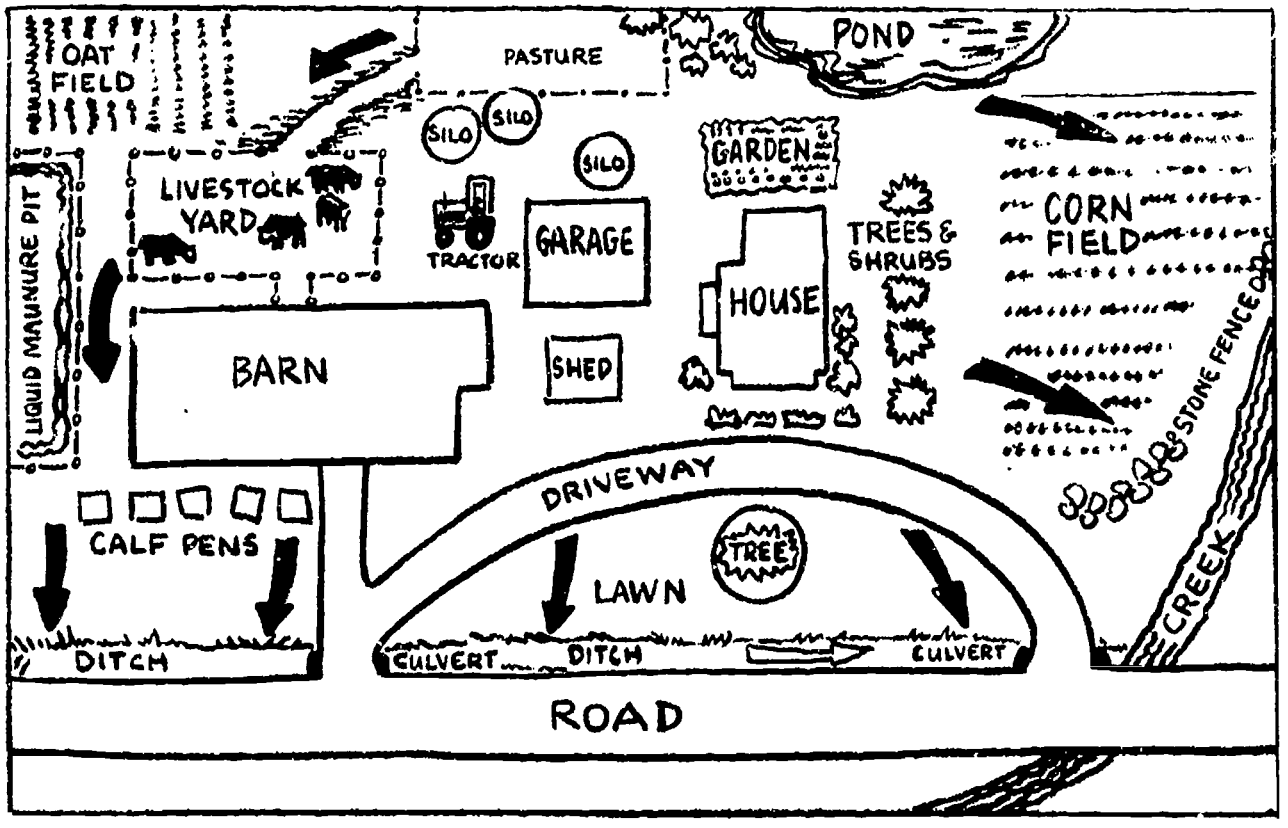
1A Why Water | 1B Ecological Address | 1C Research | 2A-Input | 2B-Choose | 2C-Plan | 3-On Track | 4A-Celebration | 4B-Next Steps

Target Date: _____

MAKING A FARM OR RANCH SITE MAP

Site maps can make problems easier to understand. Ask the farmer or rancher if they have a map of their farm showing where buildings, streams, wells, etc. are. If they do not have a map, you can make one. *See Sample Farm Site Map, below.* Include barns, sheds, silos, machinery, fences, houses, dirt or gravel roads, waterbodies, fields, pastures, stream crossings, wells, septic tanks, pastures, feedlots, etc. Do you notice anything on your site map that you should add to your watershed map?

FarmSite Map



ITEMS TO HAVE READY FOR YOUR MEETING WITH AN EXPERT:

- List of "Checklist" items with high priority ranks
- Your site map
- Questions for the guest
- An agenda

NEXT TIME:
Invite one or more experts, possibly your local Partner, to meet with your group. **The person you invite and what you tell them ahead of time are very important.** Give them an agenda for the meeting so they know the date, time and location.

Also give them a list of your questions before the meeting so they can prepare answers. Look at your Needs Checklist. What do you need more information about? *If you need ideas about whom to invite and what to ask, the Leader Guidebook can help you Get the Most Out of Interviews. See page 18. See the Partner's list on page 29 and Anybody Out There on the back cover of the Action Guide for ideas on whom to invite.*

FOR EACH QUESTION ON THE NEEDS CHECKLIST FILL IN THE BLANKS AS FOLLOWS:

1) **The Way It Is:** By looking or asking, find out what the farm or ranch is doing about the issue or question. If you or the farmer have already taken positive steps, congratulations! Check the Looking Good box. If you were able to fix the problem right away, write what you did. If an answer is complicated, or if nothing is currently being done, write down what is (or isn't) happening. *The Leader Guidebook has tips on Taking Notes on page 18.*

2) **Need More Information:** Write in this space if you can't answer the question or if you need more information. If possible, note what you need to know to answer the question.

3) **Priority Rank:** How important is each question? How important does the person in charge think it is? Circle 1 for very important, circle 2 for kind of important, and circle 3 for not very important. Why do you think it is important? You may need to explain this to other group members.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS & ANSWER

Q10:

Are there trees and shrubs along the edge of property boundaries and between fields to act as windbreaks and provide wildlife habitat?

The Way It Is: ☐ *Looking Good!*

Trees and bushes give birds a place to live and nest. They also stop soil erosion.

☒ *We Need More Information about:*

How to care for the trees.

Priority Rank: 1 (2) 3

Stuck on some items? Skip them and go on. Make sure the information you write on your Needs Checklist is accurate. If you are unsure about the questions, or do not know how to answer them, ask for help, possibly from an expert Partner. Save your questions so you only have to contact the expert once.

After finishing the Checklist, meet again to share what you found and to mark the activities on community site map. The following section tells you how to make your farm or ranch site map. This map will show more detail about your farm/ranch than you could include on your USGS map. It will show exactly where the will, septic tank and feedlots are — everywhere water is used or affected.

How does the farmer/rancher keep track of how much water s used? Is there a water meter?

What is the farmer/rancher already doing about water issues?

What is the farm/ranch's top priority need for water conservation or pollution prevention? Why?

What is the most important thing you have learned about water so far?

Keep your Needs Checklist and site map.

TALK ABOUT IT

With the whole group, take turns telling the others what your Needs Checklists showed. Mark the water conservation, pollution prevention and water education activities you found on the site map. Are there any activities which affect water quality beyond the edge of the site map? If there are, you should mark those on your Watershed Map. What were the most important issues you found?

FARM OR RANCH SITE NEEDS CHECKLIST

Look for these clues to find out why each question is important to ask!

WATER CONSERVATION

DRINKING WATER QUALITY

WATER QUALITY IN OUR ENVIRONMENT

EDUCATING ABOUT WATER

When visiting a farm or ranch, keep in mind that it may have been around for a long time, probably before a lot of information was available on water quality protection. Ask the farmer how long the land has been farmed. There may be historical reasons for the way a farm is organized. For example, the well may have been placed right next to the house or feedlot because a century ago a farmer may not have had equipment to bring water from a distant well. There may be very real economic reasons for doing things a certain way on a farm. Remember, a farm/ranch is a business. It might be too expensive to relocate a feedlot away from a well, or to fence cattle out of a stream bank. Also, farming requires a lot of risks, and asking a farmer/rancher to change something that "works" for him/her may be more of a risk than he/she is willing to take.

If possible, ask an Extension Agent, Soil Conservation Specialist, or the farmer/rancher to do this needs assessment with you. They can be helpful in answering questions and figuring out solutions which you can implement.
When the questions below refer to "you", it means you, your family, the farmer, rancher, any hired help, or whomever is responsibility for the activity.

Q1:

Do you take steps to manage well water quality?

- Do you test the well water each year for bacteria and nitrates, and keep records of these tests to watch for changes?
- Do you have backflow prevention devices on water hoses which are connected to your well? These devices prevent pesticide and fertilizer solutions from backing up the hose to the well or house. Contact your County Extension Agent or County Health Office for help.

The Way It Is: ❑ ***Looking Good!***

_____

_____

❑ ***We Need More Information about:***

_____

Priority Rank: *1 2 3*

Backflow preventions devices keep contaminants from backing up into the drinking water supply.

WATER CONSERVATION

Fact: Water is the most common substance found on Earth.

Fact: The amount of water on Earth hasn't changed since the Earth was formed.

So why conserve water? There is not always enough clean, fresh water for drinking, growing food, making things, and having fun. That means we need to use less or get it from somewhere else. Taking water from one place and moving it to another changes the environment for plants and animals, and often causes arguments between people. Using lots of water increases amounts of waste water going to treatment plants and septic tanks. And using water takes lots of energy — to clean, pump, distribute and heat it. You can save about 4 gallons of water a day by just turning off the water when you brush your teeth. *Give Water A Hand* — use it wisely!

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Q2:

Are livestock and poultry kept at least 100 feet from wells to prevent bacteria and nitrates from coming in direct contact with the well water?

- Find the well and livestock areas and measure the distance between them.

The Way It Is: ❑ *Looking Good!*

❑ *We Need More Information about:*

Priority Rank: 1 2 3

Q3:

Do you store, fill and mix agricultural chemicals and fuels on a paved surface where spills cannot leak into the ground? Is this done at least 200 feet from wells or other water sources?

The Way It Is: ❑ *Looking Good!*

❑ *We Need More Information about:*

Priority Rank: 1 2 3

WATER QUALITY IN OUR ENVIRONMENT

Round and round: we use the same water over and over again. So what happens when we pollute it? We contaminate the only supply we have — that same supply we share with other humans, animals and plants. Pollutants can enter the water supply through everyday actions — grass clippings washing down the storm sewer, hazardous materials from a painting project poured into the sink, leftover car oil dumped on the driveway. These won't disappear! The best solution to pollution is to keep it out of water in the first place. *Give Water A Hand* — keep it clean!

Q4:

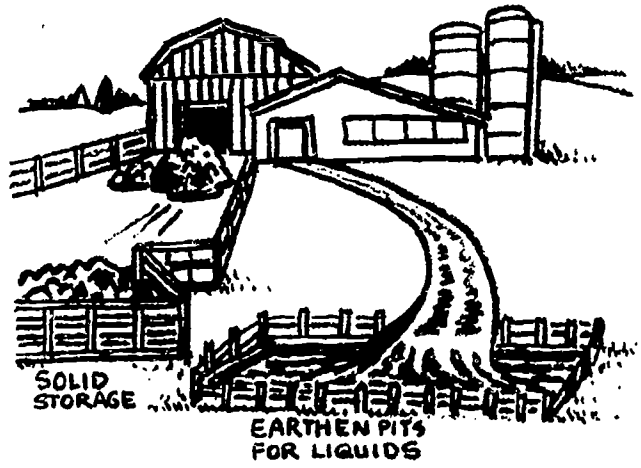
Is your septic system pumped at least every 2 - 3 years?

The Way It Is: ❑ *Looking Good!*

❑ *We Need More Information about:*

Priority Rank: 1 2 3

Manure Storage Systems



Q5:

Are livestock contained in a feedlot? If so...

- Is there a manure storage pit or pond to store animal wastes?
- Is there a ring of plants around the pit to filter runoff?
- Is it lined with concrete or uncracked clay so that no wastes can seep into the groundwater?

The Way It Is: ❑ *Looking Good!*

❑ *We Need More Information about:*

Priority Rank: 1 2 3

Cattle Crossing

Q6:

Do livestock graze? If so...

- Are there established cattle crossings at streams?
- Do you practice rotational grazing methods to avoid excess erosion?
- Is there a water source provided on the range to keep livestock out of streams?
- Do you move salt licks to encourage range animals to graze in different pastures?

The Way It Is: ❑ *Looking Good!*

❑ *We Need More Information about:*

Priority Rank: 1 2 3

Diversion ditches keep excess water out of the barnyard.

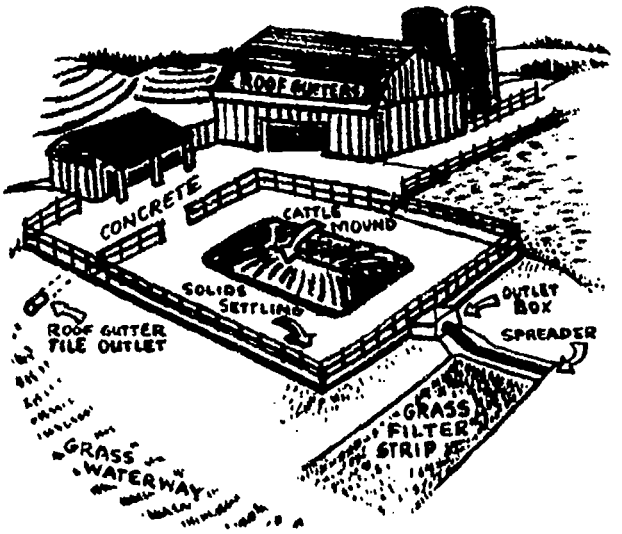
Q7:

Do you cover silage with plastic so that the rain runs off before soaking into the silage?

The Way It Is: ❑ *Looking Good!*

❑ *We Need More Information about:*

Priority Rank: 1 2 3



Livestock Yard Runoff Management System

Q8:

Are nearby wetlands protected from barnyard runoff, pesticides and herbicides?

- Do you have barnyard runoff controls such as diversion ditches, earthen berms, and roof gutters to keep excess runoff out of the barnyard? Contact your natural resources agency or County Extension Office for assistance.

The Way It Is: ❑ *Looking Good!*

❑ *We Need More Information about:*

Priority Rank: 1 2 3

Q9:

Do you go swimming or fishing in a waterway on the farm or ranch?

- If so, is the water of good quality? Ask the local health department for help in testing the water for bacteria.

The Way It Is: ❑ *Looking Good!*

❑ *We Need More Information about:*

Priority Rank: 1 2 3

Q10:

Are there trees and shrubs along the edge of property boundaries and between fields to act as windbreaks and provide wildlife habitat?

The Way It Is: ❑ *Looking Good!*

❑ *We Need More Information about:*

Priority Rank: 1 2 3

Q11:

Do you store pesticides, fertilizers and fuels in a locked place, separate from other supplies, seeds or livestock food and separate from each other?

(Ideally in a separate structure from the barn. If there is a barn fire, the chemicals could be carried into ground water or nearby streams by water used to fight the fire.)

The Way It Is: ❑ *Looking Good!*

❑ *We Need More Information about:*

Priority Rank: 1 2 3

Q12:

Do you practice soil conservation to reduce runoff and erosion? Conservation methods may include contour farming, chisel plowing, creating grass waterways, and leaving crop residue on the soil over winter.

The Way It Is: ❑ *Looking Good!*

❑ *We Need More Information about:*

Priority Rank: 1 2 3

EDUCATING ABOUT WATER

You have been learning a lot about water and how to conserve and protect it. You have probably also learned about water by reading books and magazines, watching television, going on field trips or just sitting next to a stream and observing what happens!

Many people don't know what they can do to protect and conserve water, so it is important to educate them. Through action, people learn about water issues. There are many ways to do this, such as planning community water festivals, making posters, and putting on plays. Education doesn't just happen in the classroom. *Give Water a Hand* — Spread the word!

Contour and Strip Crop Farming Methods

Q13:

Do you monitor underground fuel tanks for leakage?

- Is there a gauge to show the fuel level?

The Way It Is: ❑ *Looking Good!*

_____

_____

_____

❑ *We Need More Information about:*

_____

Priority Rank: 1 2 3

Q14:

Do you test soil nutrients before adding commercial fertilizers?

The Way It Is: ❑ *Looking Good!*

_____

_____

_____

❑ *We Need More Information about:*

_____

Priority Rank: 1 2 3

Q15:

Do you routinely apply chemical pesticides? If so...

- Do you have a method for determining how often to apply the pesticides?
- Do you use other non-chemical methods to control pests?
- Do you apply or experiment with organic farming?
- Do you rinse empty pesticide containers and add the rinse water into the sprayer tank?
- Do you clean pest sprayers away from wells and waterways?

The Way It Is: ❑ *Looking Good!*

_____

_____

_____

❑ *We Need More Information about:*

_____

Priority Rank: 1 2 3

Q16:

Do you measure the amount of water you are letting into the fields?

- Do you have a method or procedure for knowing when to add water and if you have watered enough?
- Do you irrigate in the early morning or evening when water will not evaporate as fast?

The Way It Is: ❑ *Looking Good!*

_____

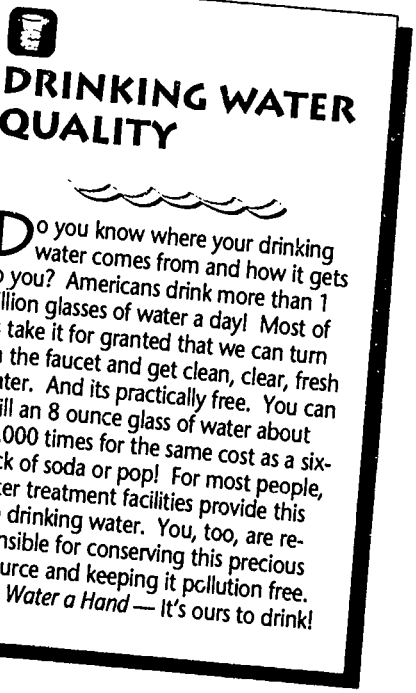
_____

_____

❑ *We Need More Information about:*

_____

Priority Rank: 1 2 3



DRINKING WATER QUALITY

Do you know where your drinking water comes from and how it gets to you? Americans drink more than 1 billion glasses of water a day! Most of us take it for granted that we can turn on the faucet and get clean, clear, fresh water. And its practically free. You can refill an 8 ounce glass of water about 15,000 times for the same cost as a six-pack of soda or pop! For most people, water treatment facilities provide this safe drinking water. You, too, are responsible for conserving this precious resource and keeping it pollution free. *Give Water a Hand* — It's ours to drink!

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Q17:

Does your family participate in state and federal programs that pay farmers/ranchers not to use fields for a period of time?

- Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District office or your County Extension Office for information about these programs.

The Way It Is: ❑ *Looking Good!*

❑ *We Need More Information about:*

Priority Rank: 1 2 3

Q18:

Do farm field days, farm expos or county fairs have exhibits or demonstrations on water conservation and water quality practices.

The Way It Is: ❑ *Looking Good!*

❑ *We Need More Information about:*

Priority Rank: 1 2 3

Q19:

Your question...

The Way It Is: ❑ *Looking Good!*

❑ *We Need More Information about:*

Priority Rank: 1 2 3

Q20:

Your question...

The Way It Is: ❑ *Looking Good!*

❑ *We Need More Information about:*

Priority Rank: 1 2 3

WHAT DOES EXPERIENCE SAY?

2A) GET INPUT FROM AN EXPERT

You can learn a lot and get more done by talking with experts who work with water issues every day. Be sure to take notes while talking with experts! *The Leader Guidebook can help you Get the Most Out of Interviews, page 18.*

INTRODUCTIONS:

Note: *You should have prepared your guest before he or she arrives. See Next Time on page 9.* Introduce yourselves to your guest. Explain that you are working on water issues and would like ideas, information and suggestions about what you can do in your community. Go over the agenda for your meeting.

PRESENT WHAT YOU HAVE FOUND:

Show your Watershed Map or maps. Present what you found out in your Needs Checklist. Tell them about the most interesting things you learned. If you have already thought of service projects you might like to do on the farm/ranch, tell your guest. Ask if he or she knows of other projects you could do. *The Leader Guidebook can help you Tell Your Story, page 19.*

ASK FOR INFORMATION AND FEEDBACK:

After you have made your presentation, you might ask your guest questions like:

- What is your job or volunteer work? How do you work with water issues?
- What are the most important water conservation and water quality issues and needs in our community?
- How does our farm/ranch affect water conservation and/or quality in our community?
- What projects are already being done on farms/ranches to work on these problems? Could we do such a project on our farm/ranch? What else could we do to help?
- What resources or help could you give or lend our group?

NEXT TIME:
List group resources, strengths and time.

POWER WORDS

Agenda: A schedule for a meeting which states what will be done when.

Feedback: Reaction to a plan or idea.

Write the name and organization of your guest expert.

List questions you asked the expert.

What did you learn from your guest?

Starting Date: _____ Completion Date: _____

You are here...

1A Why Water | 1B Ecological Address | 1C Research | 2A Input | 2B-Choose | 2C-Plan | 3-On Track | 4A-Celebration | 4B-Next Steps

Target Date: _____

WHAT CAN WE DO?

2B) CHOOSE A SERVICE PROJECT

TIME TO DECIDE!

Now that you know more about water issues on your farm or ranch, it's time to pick a water service project. This activity can help you to choose an existing project or start your own.

Know: You may already know what project you want to do. Maybe you heard about an exciting idea or want to join forces with a group already working on a project.

Don't Know: If you don't have an idea for a project, try the following. Look at your Watershed Map, Needs Checklist and site map as starting points. What were the priorities? Look at the list of project ideas on page 20. Fill out the Choose a Project chart on page 19. What can you do with the resources you have?

Decide if you are going to work together on one farm/ranch or on separate farms/ranches.

Involve local and national experts. They have ideas, information and resources. *See Get Partner Support, back cover. Also see the list on the back cover of the Leader Guidebook and decide who could be useful to your project. For example, for a water conservation project, call the Water Environment Federation for resource materials, or call your local water utility.*

HOW TO USE THE CHOOSE A PROJECT CHART

First fill out the Things We Know How to Do boxes on the left side of the chart. List all the things you are good at or talented in. If you can't think of anything, ask your friends or family to help. Everyone is good at something! Include fun things like sing, draw, fish, bake cookies as well as serious things like garden, give presentations, write letters, build things and make posters on the computer. It takes all kinds of skills to work on water issues.

Next fill in the Priority Water Conservation and Water Quality Needs boxes along the top of the chart. List the top priority needs from your Needs Checklist or from your talk with an expert.

Under the Needs list, put an "X" on any line that matches up with something you can do that would be useful in working on that issue. For example, if you put "garden" at left, and "plant trees, shrubs and flowers" on top, mark the box where lines from these two things meet. Circle any Needs with lots of "X's" in their column. You have the skills to do these projects. You can now start your own project to help with these needs!

WILL IT WORK?

Discuss these questions about your project ideas:

- ❑ Would the project meet a real need? How do you know? (Did it appear in your Needs Checklist? Did your guest expert discuss it? Has it been a topic in the newspaper?)
- ❑ Are others working on the problem? Can you join them?
- ❑ Are you excited about working on the project? If not, how could it become exciting?
- ❑ What difference will this project make? To you? To the farm/ranch? To the people, plants and animals in the watershed?
- ❑ What resources are needed to do the project? (Tools, information, skills, money, and, especially, **time.**) Which resources do you have? Can you get the others? Where?

Starting Date: _____ Completion Date: _____

You are here...

❑ 1A Why Water ❑ 1B Ecological Address ❑ 1C Research ❑ 2A Input ❑ 2B Choose | ❑ 2C-Plan | ❑ 3-On Track | ❑ 4A-Celebration | ❑ 4B-Next Steps

Target Date: _____

CHOOSE A PROJECT

PRIORITY WATER CONSERVATION AND POLLUTION PREVENTION NEEDS

THINGS WE KNOW HOW TO DO!

PROJECT IDEAS

This list of project ideas may help you figure out what to do.

Note to participants: There are several simple actions you can take on the farm to conserve water and to improve and protect water quality. You may decide to discuss these actions as a group, and then implement them individually on your farm or ranch. Or you may decide to take on a larger project as a group at one farm or ranch. Be sure to look back at your "Needs Checklist" for additional background information and ideas for activities. Issues relating to the farm house or ranch house can be found in the *Home Site Action Guide.*

What service project did your group choose?:

Why did you choose it?:

What difference will it make to you? to the farm/ranch? To other people, plants and animals in the watershed?

- **Record keeping:** Start a notebook for keeping annual records of well water testing and septic system pumping. Include any records you can find from previous years. Take responsibility for making sure the testing occurs regularly. Contact your County Extension Agent for help.
- **Abandoned Wells:** Find out if there are any old, abandoned wells on the farm or ranch. See if these wells have been properly sealed. If not, work with a County Extension Agent to seal them.
- **Storage Pits:** Build a fence around the manure storage pit or pond and post a sign telling people what it is.
- **Streambank Erosion Prevention:** Plant native trees, grasses and forbs along streams to prevent erosion. Use biosolids enriched soils or compost for planting. Contact American Forests, 1516 P St. NW, Washington, DC 20005 or your local County Extension Office for help with tree planting. Contact the Water Environment Federation, 601 Wythe St., Alexandria, VA 22314 for information on biosolids.
- **Stream Crossings:** Construct erosion control structures across streams in established areas where livestock cross the stream. If the stream is navigable, you may need a permit to do it. Contact your local Conservation District personnel for assistance.
- **Tree Planting:** Plant native trees, shrubs, and grasses along property boundaries and between fields to keep the wind from blowing soil away, and to create wildlife habitat. Find sources to pay for the plants or seeds.
- **Chemical Storage Shed:** Develop a plan to build a storage shed and mixing platform for agricultural chemicals and fuels. Your plan should include a site map, materials list, costs and sources of funding. Build the storage shed.
- **Water Quality Testing:** Conduct regular water quality testing of any streams, ponds or lakes on your farm or ranch to see how clean they are. Clean up any garbage in and around the waterbody. Check with your health department, County Extension Office, or local branch of the Izaak Walton League for help.
- **Assistance Programs:** Research and publicize state and county assistance programs designed to support sound water and soil conservation and protection practices. Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District office or your County Extension Office.
- **Barnyard Runoff:** Develop and implement a plan to keep runoff out of the barnyard. Research and draw up plans for a diversion dam. Repair existing diversion systems where water is not being contained. Put gutters on the farmhouse and buildings to divert rainwater away from the barnyard. Share your plan with the farmer.
- **Feedlot Runoff:** Develop and implement a plan to contain feedlot runoff so that it goes into holding tanks, pits or ponds rather that streams. Your plan should include a site map, materials list, costs and sources of funding. Share your plan with the farmer.
- **Soil Erosion in Streams:** Properly stake bales of hay in or near streams to catch soil washing in or down stream during construction or at stream crossings. If the stream is navigable, you may not be able to put bales of hay in it.
- **Soil Conservation:** Construct grass waterways or filter strips between fields to conserve soil and reduce runoff. Contact your County Extension Agent or Soil and Water Conservation Department for help.
- **Plantings:** Plant areas with bare soil around the barn and livestock feed areas with grass seed, shrubs or trees to prevent runoff.
- **Low Impact Farming:** Work with a County Extension Agent to learn to incorporate new, lower impact methods, such as low or no till and rotational grazing. Discuss with farmer whether any of these activities would be feasible at your site.
- **Survey:** Survey farmers in your community to determine if they use biosolids. Distribute educational brochures or conduct town meetings to promote and talk about the benefits of biosolids recycling. Contact the Water Environment Federation, 601 Wythe St., Alexandria, VA 22314 for free biosolids information kits and brochures.

NEXT TIME: Bring all your maps, charts, and notes for planning. Invite your local Partner or a water issues expert to join your group next time to help with planning.

WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

2C) PLAN FOR ACTION

Now that you know what project you're going to do, you need to figure out a plan of action. Using your Watershed Map, Needs Checklist, Choose a Project chart, site map, notes and so on, fill out the Project Plan on page 23 as a group. Even if you don't know an answer, give your best guess. The next activity, Keep on Track, on page 24 can help you work through problems as you begin your project.

POWER WORDS

Mind map: A way to brainstorm that helps show how one thing goes with another.

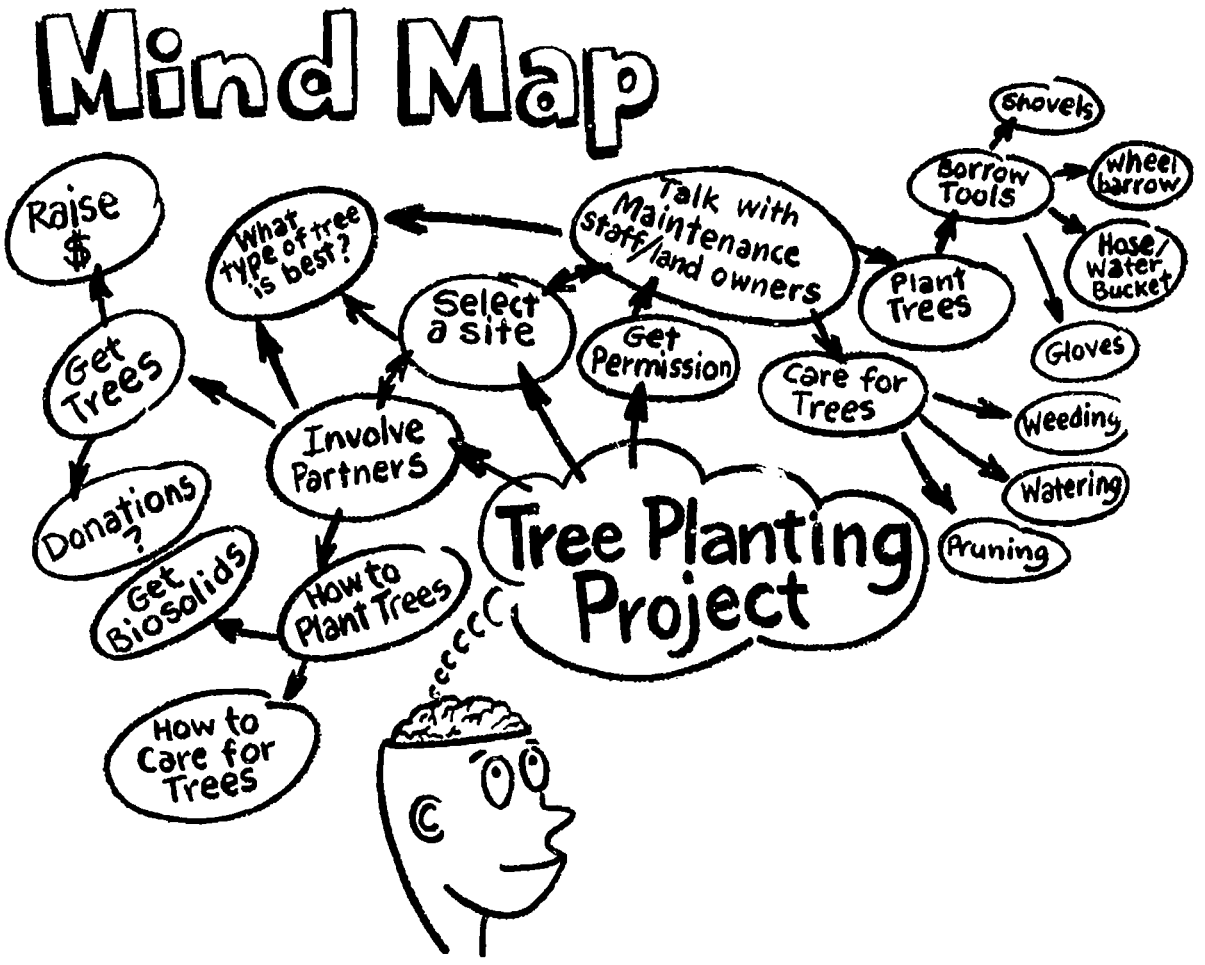
Time line: A calendar listing the dates tasks need to be done.

Succeed/success: Doing a good job. Doing what you set out to do.

IDEAS

MIND MAP

Many people find it helpful to use a "mind map" to think up all the tasks they will need to do as part of a project. Write your project idea in a circle in the middle of the page. As each new idea comes to you, write it in a circle next to the thing most like it, then connect the two circles with a line. Think of the small tasks that make up big jobs. Keep going until you can't think of any more tasks that need to be done. *See example below.*



Starting Date: _____ Completion Date: _____

You are here...

1A Why Water | 1B Ecological Address | 1C Research | 2A Input | 2B Options | 2C Plan | ❑ 3-On Track | ❑ 4A-Celebration | ❑ 4B-Next Steps

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ERIC

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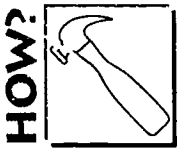
SERVICE PROJECT PLAN

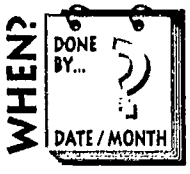
Give your project a name that describes it. Make it one that people will be able to remember. It could be simple like *Jefferson County 4-H School Stream Clean Up* or catchy like *Mud Patrol: Erosion Prevention Program.* Write in your group's name and project partners.

What is the most important task on your Mind Map? Write it on your Service Project Plan under "What task?" Write the next most important thing, and the next, until all the tasks are on the Plan.

Who will do each task? Write his or her name (or names) under "Who?" This person must make sure the job gets done. He or she can ask for help.



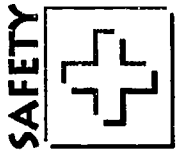
Brainstorm the resources (tools, information, people) you need to get each task done. Write them down. Could your partners or other experts or organizations help?



Get a calendar. Write today's date over "start" on the Time Line. When does the project have to be done? The end of the semester? March? Write that date over "finish."

How many months is it from start to finish? How often do you meet each month? Calculate how many meetings you will have (months times meeting per month). Mark a line for each meeting and write a date over it.

Using your time line, figure out when you need to complete each task. It often helps to start at the end date and work backwards. For example, if you are planning a Water Fair, think how much time before the Fair people need to know about it so they can plan to come. If they need to know two weeks ahead, then you must make all posters, radio ads, buttons, stickers, etc. and get them up by then.



Think of ways someone might get hurt on your project. What can you do to prevent it? What would you do if someone were hurt? Write ideas in the "Safety Plan" box.

YOU'RE READY TO GO! CHECK SECTION 3 FOR TIPS FOR SUCCESS.

TIPS FOR PLANNING

- Start small. Most people try to do too much. You can always do more once you show what you can do.
- You don't need to have the perfect plan. Do what works for you!
- It's O.K. to change your plan as you need to, but it's still important to have one.

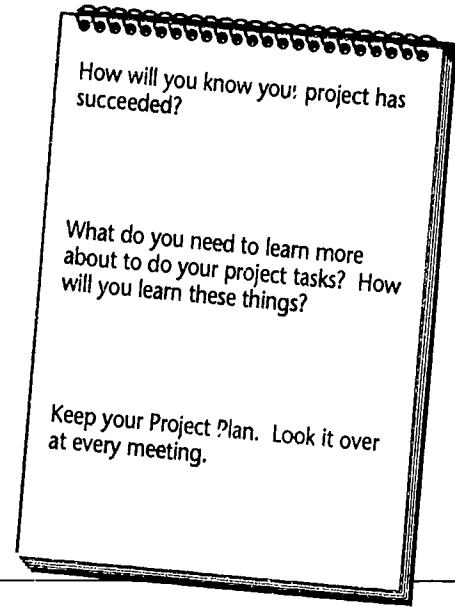
GET HELP

You must get feedback from anyone whose help (or permission) you will need, such as the farmer or rancher. Also get feedback from someone with experience doing the kind of thing you want to do.

You can do more if you team up with other people. Your Partner or other experts or organizations can give resources, help and advice. Other groups of young people may help share tasks. Who could you team up with? *See Get Partner Support, on back cover.*

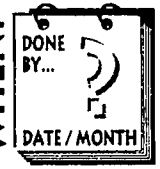
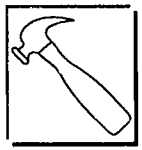
HOW WILL YOU KNOW YOU SUCCEEDED?

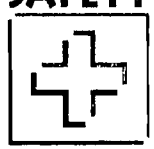
How will you know when your project is finished? How will you know you have done a good job? The better you can answer these questions, the better your project is likely to turn out. It always helps to know exactly where you are trying to go. Check section 4 on page 25 for ideas about information you should collect while you are doing your project so you can explain why it was successful.



SERVICE PROJECT PLAN

GROUP NAME: _____ _____ PARTNER(S): _____ PROJECT TITLE: _____

WHO? 	WHAT?  TASKS	WHEN? 	HOW?  RESOURCES?

SAFETY 

SAFETY PLAN

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____ CALL 911

TIME LINE

WHEN? 

START _____ FINISH

HOW'S IT GOING? 3) KEEP ON TRACK

Now that you have chosen your project, you can get started! Be sure to check back with this section and section 4 as you go along. *The Leader Guidebook has ideas for Solving Problems, Working as a Team, and other helpful information for your group.*

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- **Your Service Project Plan is a guide, not a rule book.** You make a plan so everyone in your group knows what everyone else is trying to do. Yet things rarely go exactly as planned. As a group, look at your plan and change what needs changing.
- **Work for a "win-win."** Find out how everyone can win from your success.
- **Get to know lots of people.** The more people you know, the more likely one of them will know how to help. Any experts who helped your group know lots of other people who can help.
- **Don't give up.** There is always one more thing you can try.
- **Communicate.** Everyone in your group must know what is going on. Talk often to each other. Call each other. Hold regular meetings. Work together.

GETTING PAST A ROAD BLOCK

You ran out of money or time. Someone quit. Someone said "no." Now what?

- Can you go around it? Is this the only way to do the task? Try another way.
- Over it? Can you get help from the top: soil conservation district staff, the county commissioner, your mom or dad?
- Through it? With more help, could you push right through the problem?

THINK ABOUT IT

Your project gives you a chance to do something important. It is also a chance to learn to do an even better job next time. Sit down as a group and talk about what you have seen, heard, felt or learned. Share your thoughts.

WHAT HAPPENED?

- What was the most fun thing that happened? The least fun?
- What helped you the most? What were the biggest road blocks?
- What effect did it have on your farm or ranch? On your watershed?

SO WHAT?

- What have you learned about how humans affect the people, plants and animals in the watershed? How do your actions affect others?
- Did you do what you set out to do? How do you know?
- Has your work made a difference? How?
- How could the problem you worked on be prevented from happening again?

NOW WHAT?

- How would you do things differently next time?
- What advice would you give another group working on a similar project?
- What will you do to prevent the problem from happening in the future?
- What other issues or projects would you like to work on?

Read the Think About It questions and take five minutes to write answers to some of them.

List any new partners you have begun working with.

Starting Date: _____ Completion Date: _____

You are here...

1A Why Water | 1B Ecological Address | 1C Research | 2A Input | 2B Choose | 2C Plan | 3 On Track | 4A-Celebration | 4B-Next Steps

Target Date: _____

WE DID ALL THAT?!?

4A) CELEBRATE SUCCESS

MEASURE AND RECORD SUCCESS

There are many reasons to show what you have done on your project. People are more likely to give permission, help and resources when you can prove what you can do. Newspapers and radio/TV stations are more likely to report about you. Other young people may get excited and want to join you. It feels good to see what you have done.

WAYS TO SHOW WHAT YOU HAVE DONE:

- Count the number of trees planted, pounds of biosolids used
- How many people helped out? How many hours did each person work on the project? How many total hours did your group work?
- Count how many people living in your town came to a workshop. Made a change on their farm or ranch to protect water quality and conserve water
- Draw pictures or take photographs or videos of your work
- Interview the farmer or rancher, family members, other participants
- Get letters from people you helped or worked with
- Write stories, a rap or song about your project
- Give tours or demonstrations to show other farmers, ranchers, neighbors, County Extension Agents and others the changes you have made on the farm or ranch

How do you feel about your project? How does it feel to try to make a difference?

How will you show others what you have done?

How will you continue the group's work?

IDEAS FOR LOCAL CELEBRATION

After all your hard work to *Give Water a Hand*, it's nice to celebrate. Not only is celebration fun, but it's a good way to say thank you to people who helped out. If you can get the newspapers, TV or radio to run a story on your project, lots of other people will hear about the importance of water issues. Here are some ideas:

- Share your success with your local and national partners
- Invite newspapers and TV stations to come to see what you have done *The Leader Guidebook has tips for Working with the Media, page 19.*
- Hold a pizza party or picnic
- Write a story for the community newspaper. Weekly or monthly papers especially look for local stories
- Make T-shirts for group members with the name of your group
- Use your imagination. It's <u>your</u> party!

Starting Date: _____ Completion Date: _____

You are here...

1A Why Water | 1B Ecological Address | 1C Research | 2A Input | 2B Choose | 2C Plan | 3 On Track | 4A Celebration | ☐ 4B-Next Steps

Target Date: _____

WHAT'S NEXT

4B) TAKE NEXT STEPS

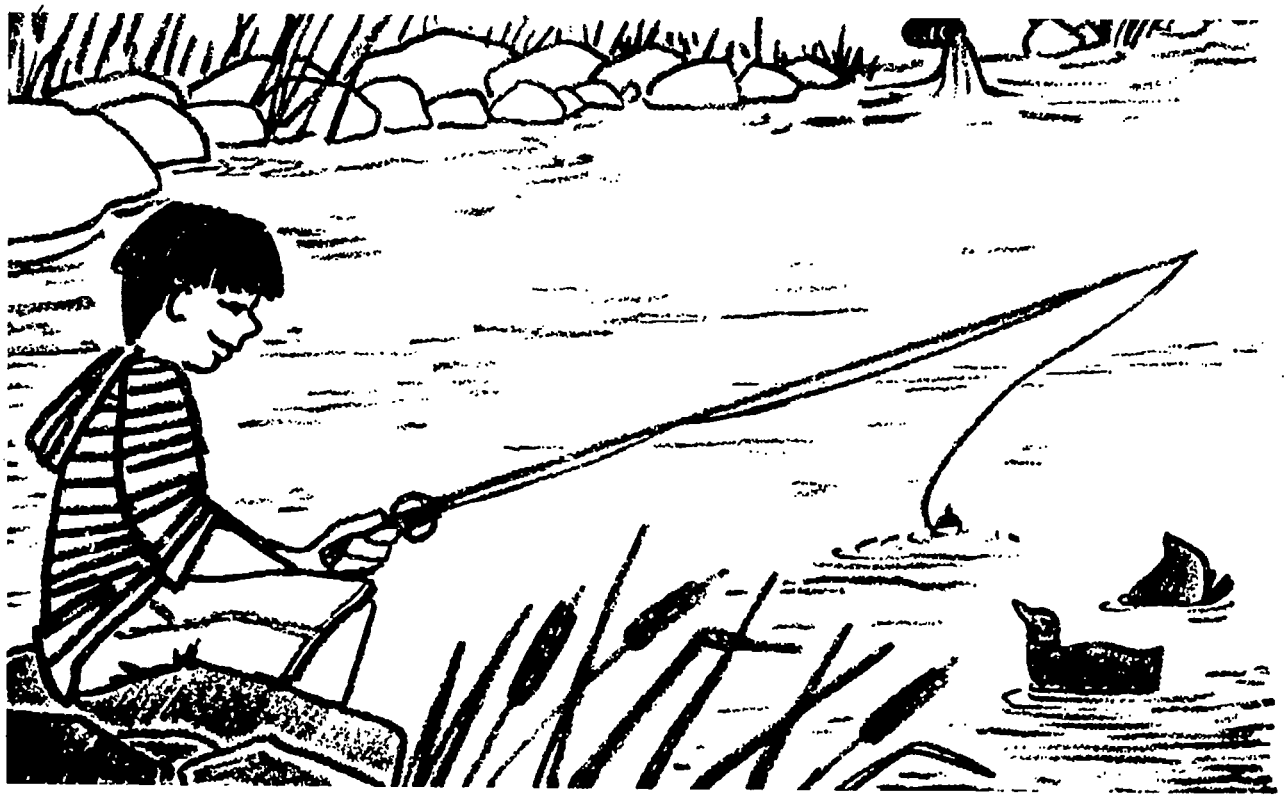
One of the best things about finishing a project like this is that you now know all sorts of new people, information and skills. You have proven that you can do something important as a team! Now, as a group or by yourselves, you might want to start new projects. There is always lots more to be done!

You don't have to start over from the beginning. Look at your Needs Checklist, Watershed Map, site map and notes. Talk to your partners. What is another important need or project? Under Think About It on page 24 you talked about some other projects you might like to work on. You may know of more you could do on this project.

Talk again with your partners and other people you have worked with. Would they like to help again? What ideas do they have?

Make a new mind map and Service Project Plan and go for it!

In the future how will you help others conserve water and protect and improve water quality?



Starting Date: _____ Completion Date: _____

You are here...

1A Why Water | 1B Ecological Address | 1C Research | 2A Input | 2B Choose | 2C Plan | 3 On Track | 4A Celebration | 4B Next Steps

Target Date: _____

GIVE WATER A HAND

NATIONAL DRINKING WATER WEEK 1995 RECOGNITION FORM

****DUE BY MARCH 1, 1995****

Please answer questions the best you can using your Project Journals, Watershed Map, site map and Needs Checklist as reminders. Please print or type clearly. Computer print-outs are O.K., but may be no more than two pages.

You may want to include a photocopy of your results, newspaper articles, etc.

Please limit to three extra pages. Keep a copy for yourselves.

Involve the whole group in completing the form.

URGENT: SEND THIS FORM BY MARCH 1, 1995 TO:

If there is no address listed above, send the form to your County Extension 4-H Office or call 1-800-WATER20 for further mailing instructions.

1. Name/s and grades of group members:

Selected youth groups participating in *Give Water A Hand* will receive Youth Earth Service Awards in Washington, DC during National Drinking Water Week, May 7 - 13, 1995. These awards will be part of the United Earth ceremonies, and will be presented by Claes Nobel of the Nobel Prize family, founder of United Earth. In order to have a chance to receive this award, you must complete and send in this form by **March 1, 1995.**

Group leader or teacher:

Organization/group name:

Address: _____

_____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Contact person: _____

Phone: Day: _____ Evening: _____

2. **List all the Partners you worked with. How were they involved?**

3. What was your service project? Describe what you did. What water issue(s) did you address? Why did you pick this project? Did you choose your own project, or did your leader or another adult pick it for you?

4. How did your project make a difference to your community? to the watershed?

5. Were you successful? How do you know?

6. What was the most fun part of the project?

7. What was the hardest part of the project?

8. What projects about water will you do next? Will you work with other groups?

9. Do you have any suggestions for other young people who want to do the same project in their communities?

GIVE WATER A HAND

FARM AND RANCH SITE ACTION GUIDE
PROMOTING GOOD WATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ON FARMS AND RANCHES

Made Possible With Support from :

- Church & Dwight Co., Inc.
  Makers of Arm & Hammer® Baking Soda
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

In Partnership with:

American Forests

American Water Works Association

Earth Force

Global Rivers Environmental Education Network

The Groundwater Foundation

Izaak Walton League

National Aquarium in Baltimore

National Association of Conservation Districts

National 4-H Council

National Marine Education Association

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers)

Tennessee Valley Authority

Trout Unlimited

USDA Cooperative Extension System

USDA Extension Service

USDA Forest Service

USDA Soil Conservation Service

US EPA Office of Water

US Fish and Wildlife Service

US Geological Survey

US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

University of Wisconsin Environmental Resources Center

Western Regional Environmental Education Council

Water Environment Federation

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Community Site Action Guide
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Environmental Stewardship

Extension Service

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ANYBODY OUT THERE?

GET PARTNER SUPPORT

Your project will go better if you get help and advice from an expert. We call these people or organizations who will help "Partners". If you have already signed up with a Partner from the list on the back cover of the *Leader Guidebook*, great! If not, do it now. This page can help you get help from these and other people.

POWER WORDS

Partner: People and/or organizations which work together to get something done.

Resources: People, books, tools, money, transportation — anything useful to get something done.

HOW PARTNERS CAN HELP

All the organizations which helped create *Give Water a Hand* want to help you. Many others can help also. There are many useful things they might help with. For example:

- Show you how to read maps or a water meter. Test water. Plant and care for trees. Raise money. Install equipment. Use tools
- Answer questions about: how plumbing works, where drinking water comes from, where wastewater goes, what animals and plants live in water, and what hazardous materials might affect people, plants and animals
- Give, sell or lend tools, maps, brochures, posters, buttons, displays, videos, seeds, trees, equipment — even buses or cars
- Give or get permission for you to do what you want to. Or help you get in to talk to the county commissioner, school board, town council or mayor
- Tell you about projects you can work on or even work with you on one!

HOW TO GET HELP FROM PARTNERS

The first trick in getting help is knowing whom to talk to. Here are some ideas:
The list of national Partners on pages 27-29 of the *Leader Guidebook* explains what each one has to offer, whether they have local contacts or offices. The project list (on page 20) gives specific suggestions about what national Partners can help with.

Look at this page whenever your group needs information or resources.

List your project partners, their phone numbers and addresses:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

People or organizations in the community include County Extension Agents, Soil and Water Conservation District staff, public water utilities, non-profit environmental organizations, county or city waste management agencies, nature centers, and others. People at your school who could help include: school principal, teachers, the PTA or PTO.

TIPS FOR WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- Prepare before you call, write or meet. Be as specific as possible
- Be polite and respectful, even when you disagree or don't get what you want
- Always give your name and say what group you are with.
- Write all names, phone numbers and addresses in your Project Journal
- Say thank you. Send thank you notes. Invite Partners to a project celebration
- Only one person from your group should call. Don't confuse your Partners
- Call back after a couple of days if someone doesn't return your call
- Make sure you have a complete list of all your questions when you call your partner so that you don't have to keep calling back each time something comes up