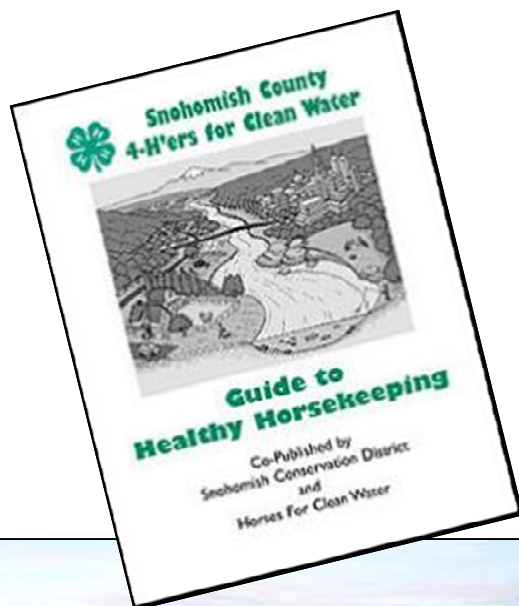




# Eco-Friendly Ways to Control Mud, Dust, Bugs & Weeds on Equine Properties



# Alayne Blickle & Horses for Clean Water



- Classes, farm tours, workshops, educational materials, individual consultations
- Eco-friendly ways of keeping horses





# Why “Clean Water?”

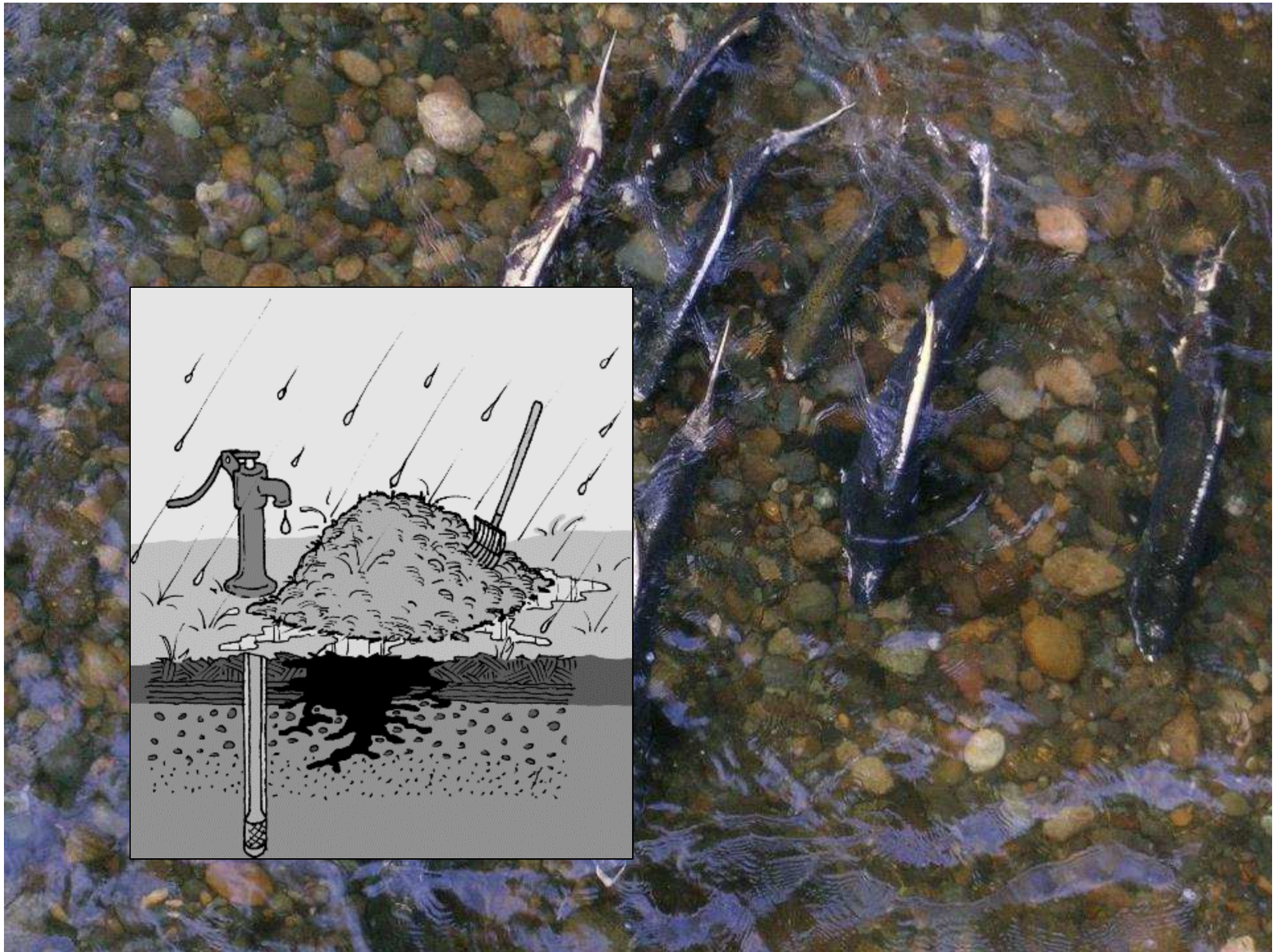


## Runoff causes problems!

- Muddy properties
- Over-grazed pastures
- Manure and urine
- Misused chemicals

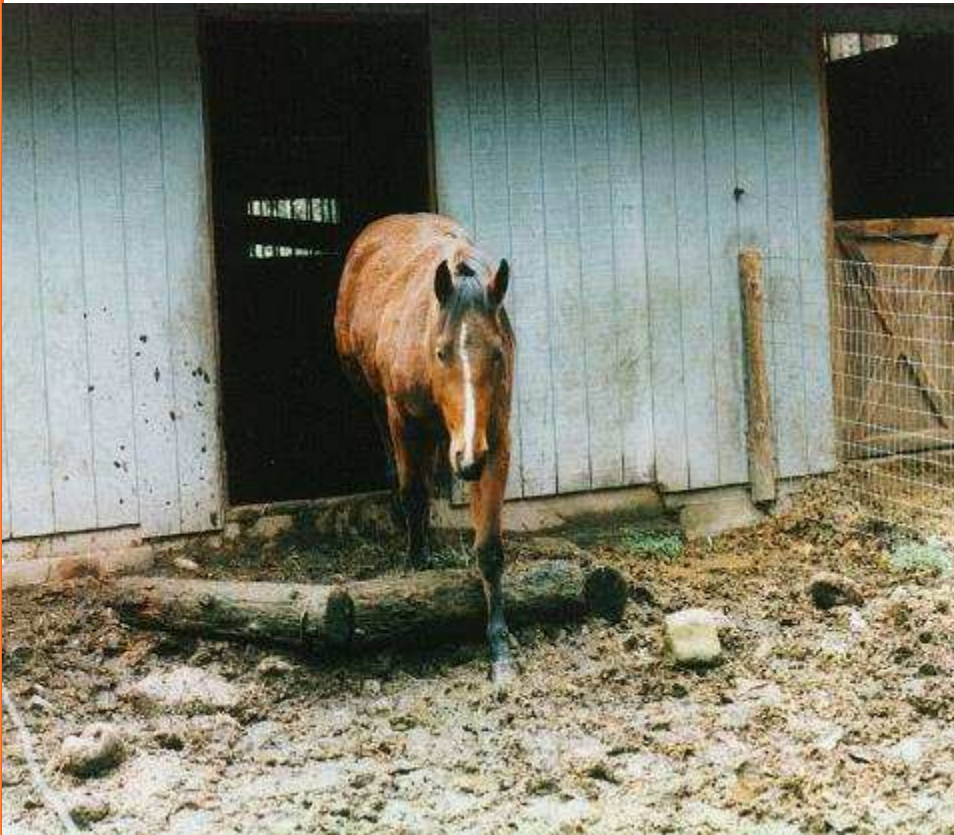








# HCW Topics: Mud & Drainage Management



Before



After

**ASPCA**pro



# HCW Topics: Manure Management



Before

After





# HCW Topics: Pasture Management



Before

After





# HCW Topics: Chemical Use Reduction





# HCW Topics: Water Conservation





# HCW Topics: Firewise







# Horses for Clean Water is...

Good for:

- horse health
- chore efficiency
- farm or ranch productivity
- property esthetics for you (& your neighbors) to enjoy
- save you money
- environmental health



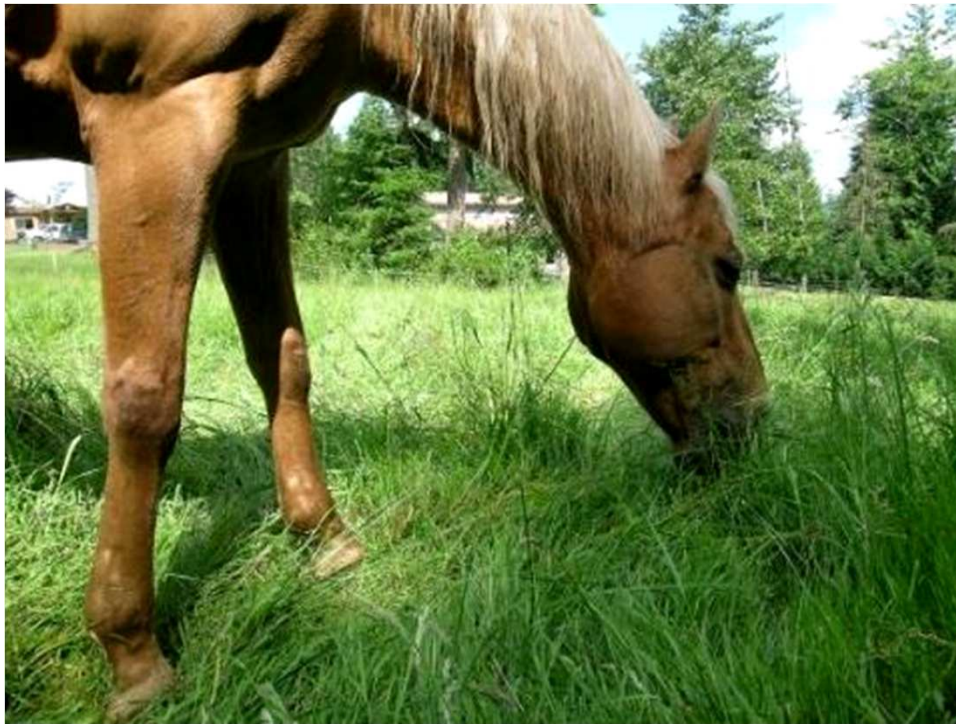




# Horses for Clean Water Resources



We will cover  
resources at the end





# Natural Solutions for Managing Horse Properties







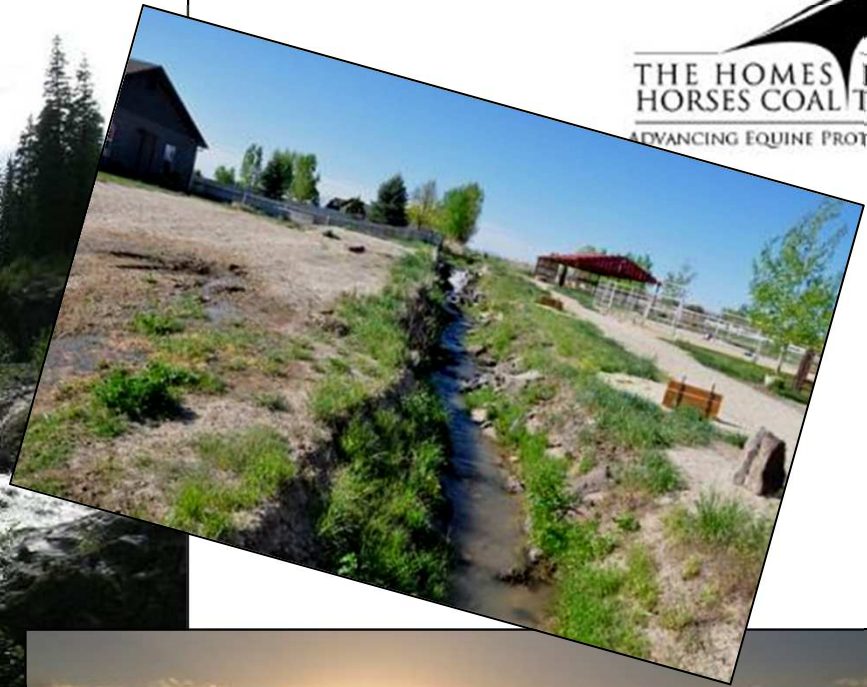
















Chemicals can work their way into our drinking water, the air we breath, the soil we grow our crops in or graze our horses on...

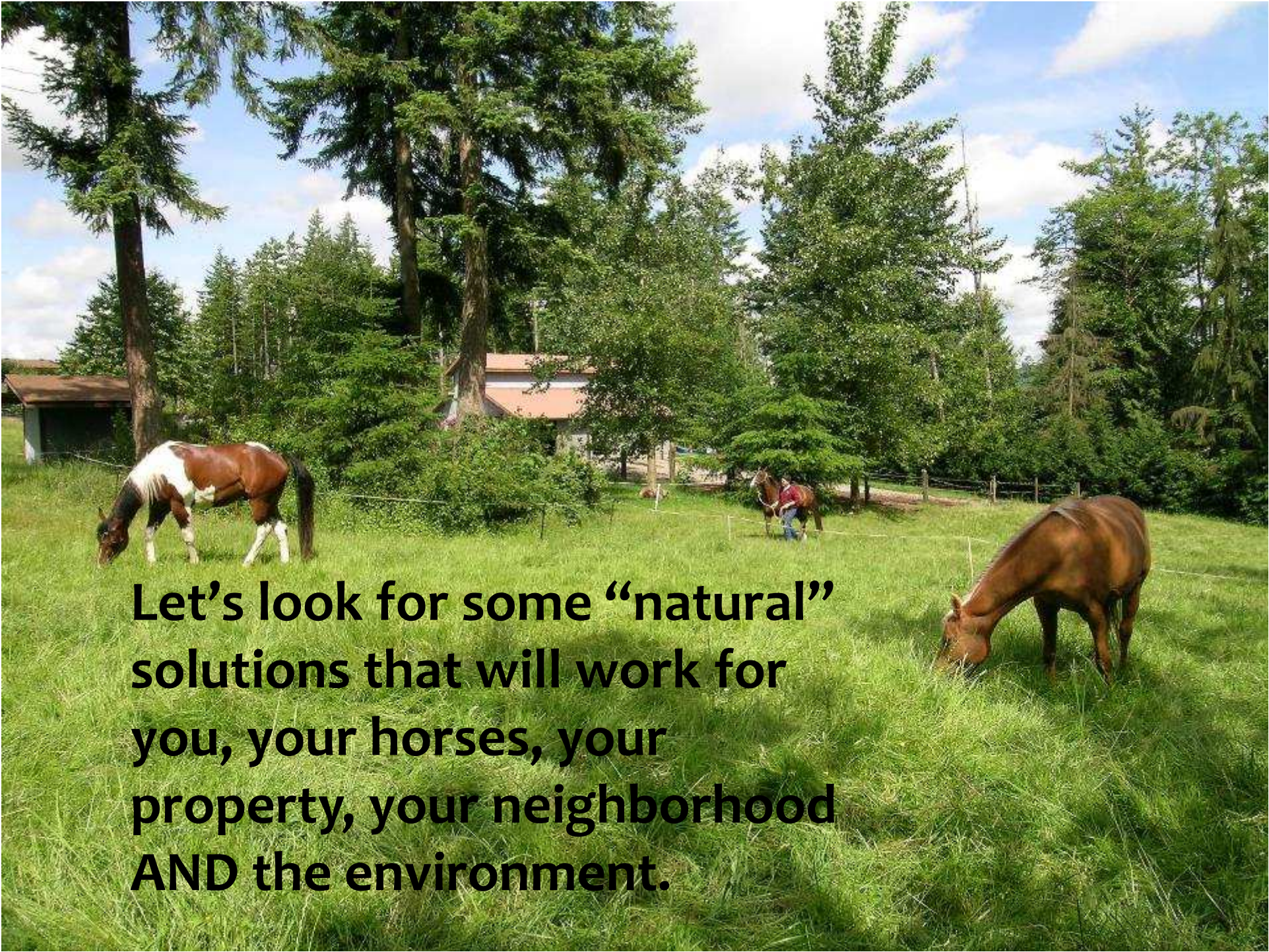




Effecting  
those that  
we love and  
care for...







**Let's look for some “natural” solutions that will work for you, your horses, your property, your neighborhood AND the environment.**



- 1. Put native plants to work**
- 2. Least toxic insect control**
- 3. Least toxic rodent control**
- 4. Least toxic weed control**
- 5. Odor control ideas**
- 6. Water conservation tips**
- 7. Recycling down-on-the-farm**



# 1. Put native plants to work



A native plant is one that's here naturally & has not been introduced.



# Native plants offer lots benefits over non-natives

- Disease tolerant
- Better adapted to our climate
- Require less care, no watering & no pesticides
- Cost less
- Very attractive
- Offer food & shelter to a variety of native animals






# Jobs around a horse property that native plants can do:



- Mud reduction
- Dust barriers
- Visual screens & buffers between neighbors
- Summer shade & winter sun for horses
- Summer cooling of buildings
- Erosion control
- Encourage beneficial wildlife that you want (to eat bugs or rodents, serenade us, entertain us, etc.)
- Low-cost/low care landscaping





A mature Douglas fir tree can  
drink up to 250 gallons of  
water per day!









FOR  
ON  
TION



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A photograph of a rural farm scene. In the foreground, there is a grassy field with some fallen leaves. A wire fence runs across the middle ground. Behind the fence, a brown horse stands in a gravel-covered paddock. To the left of the paddock, a large, leafy green tree provides shade. In the background, a large red barn with a brown metal roof is visible. A person in a blue shirt is standing near the barn's entrance. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

Provide summer shade &  
winter sun for horses





Native plants as dust  
barriers

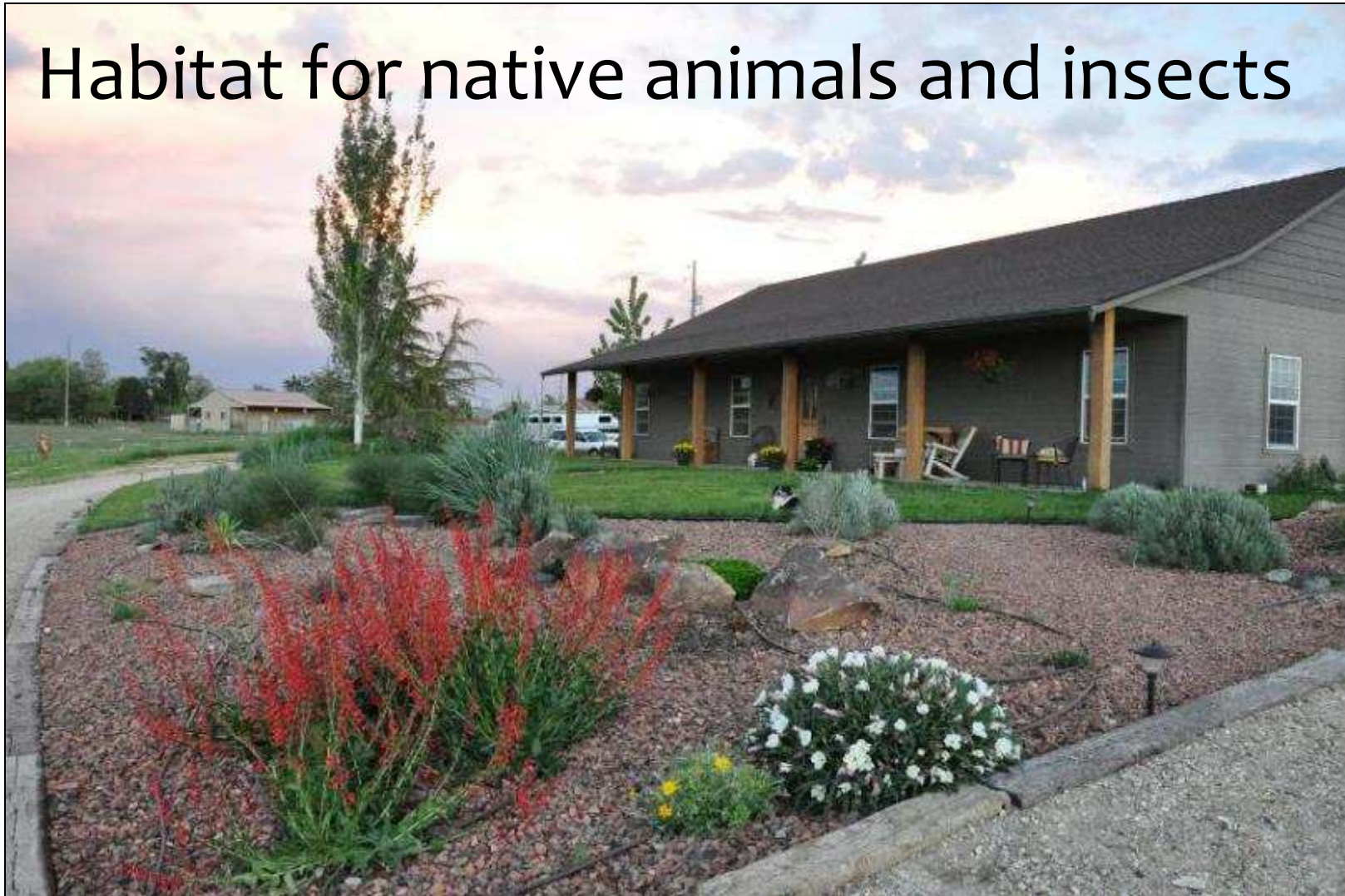




# Visual screen or buffer between neighbors



# Habitat for native animals and insects













## 2. Least toxic insect control



Fly  
control













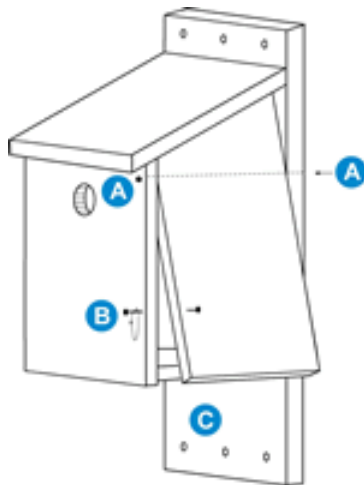
# Building a Nestbox



**The Green Horse**

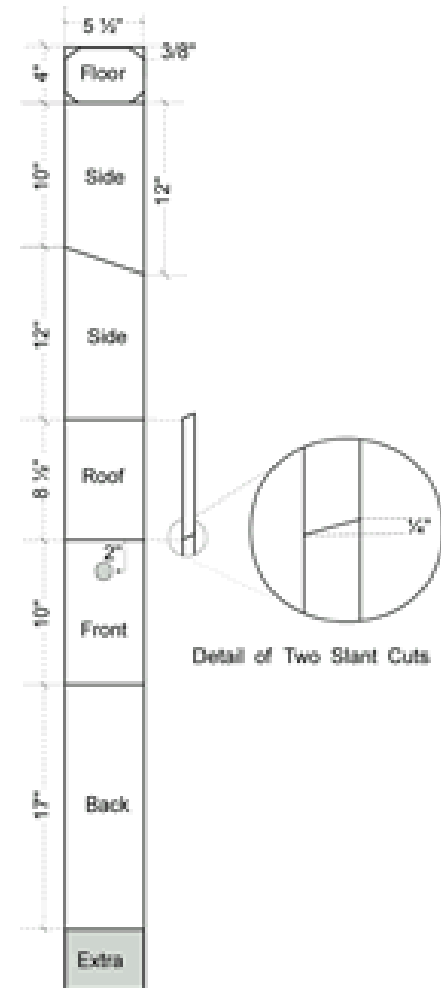
*Promoting the equestrian lifestyle within a sustainable environment*

March 2007



## Materials

- One 1x6" x 6' rough cedar board
- Eighteen 1-1/4" outdoor wood screws or # 7 galvanized nails
- Wire to keep side door shut















Bat boxes -- for  
nocturnal insect  
control





# Non- insecticidal traps







Know your bugs -- not all bugs are bad!



### 3. Least toxic rodent control









TYTO ALBA

# BARN OWL

**THE PERFECT  
MOUSETRAP**

This graceful, medium sized owl can be found on every continent except Antarctica. The Barn Owls' ability for silent flight, their tendency to inhabit abandoned buildings and their unique loud, rasping, high-pitched hiss or scream, has earned this bird names such as *Ghost Owl* and *Spirit Owl*.

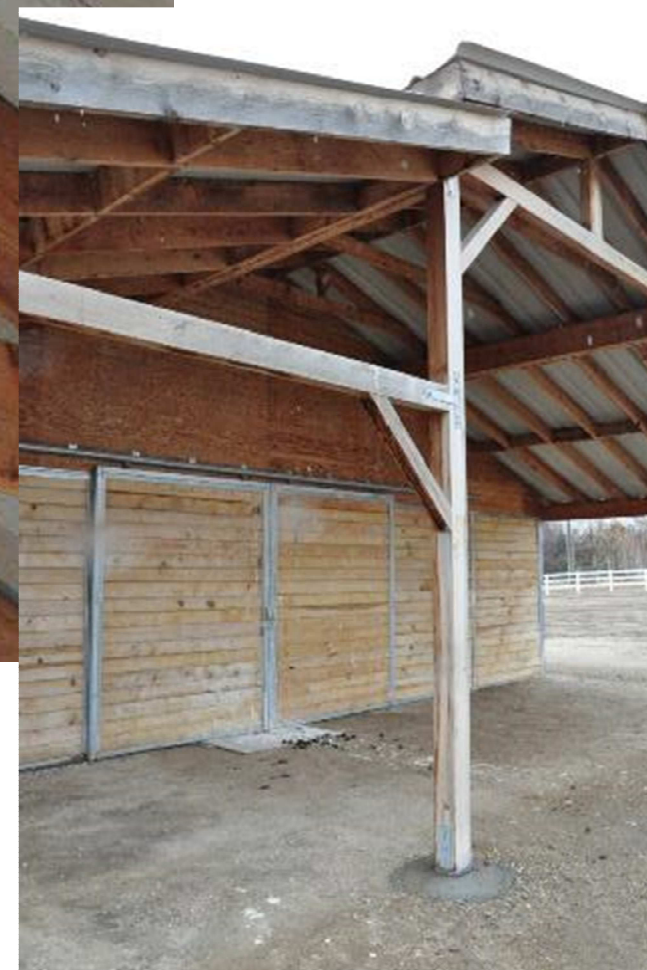


Exclusively nocturnal (night time), Barn Owls use their exceptional hearing to hunt in total darkness with complete accuracy. Probably the most economically beneficial owl in the world due to its eating habits, the Barn Owl has long helped farmers control rodent populations. A Barn Owl family of two adults and six owlets can eat more than 1,000 rodents during a three-month period.

The Barn Owl is an endangered species in Illinois and much of the Midwest. Loss of nesting and hunting habitat along with pesticides has led to severe population declines.





















## 4. Least toxic weed control

Practice good pasture management

- Establish a sacrifice area
- Never graze below 3-4"
- Practice rotational grazing
- Keep horses off winter pastures



# Least toxic weed control



- Hand remove
- Weed burner
- Spot spray using the appropriate herbicide at the recommended time of the year
- Integrated Pest Management







# Least toxic weed control



- IPM method using beneficial insects
- Ex: Cinnabar moth – Tansy Ragwort



# Horticultural vinegar





# Herbicides



- Choose the appropriate herbicide
- Use at the right time of year/plant growth
- Mix according to instructions
- Spot spray
- Don't spray when windy or going to rain



## 5. Odor control ideas



- Zeolite products
- Beneficial microbial sprays



- Create a “horse urinal”



## 6. Water conservation tips



- Automatic waterers
- Roof runoff uses
- Pervious surfaces
- Outdoor washracks
- Swales & buffers
- Rain gardens



















# Outdoor washracks





















## 7. Recycling down-on-the-farm

Ideas  
for using  
repurposed  
materials



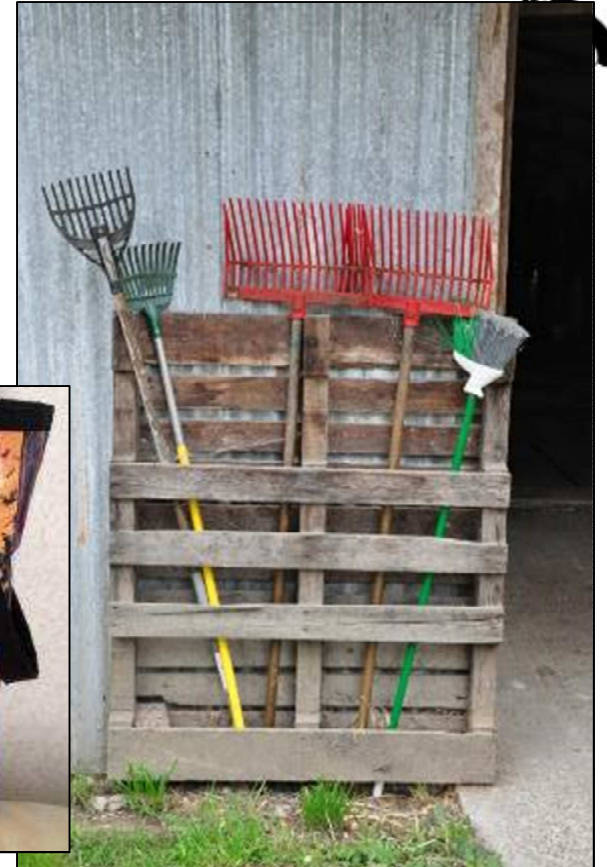








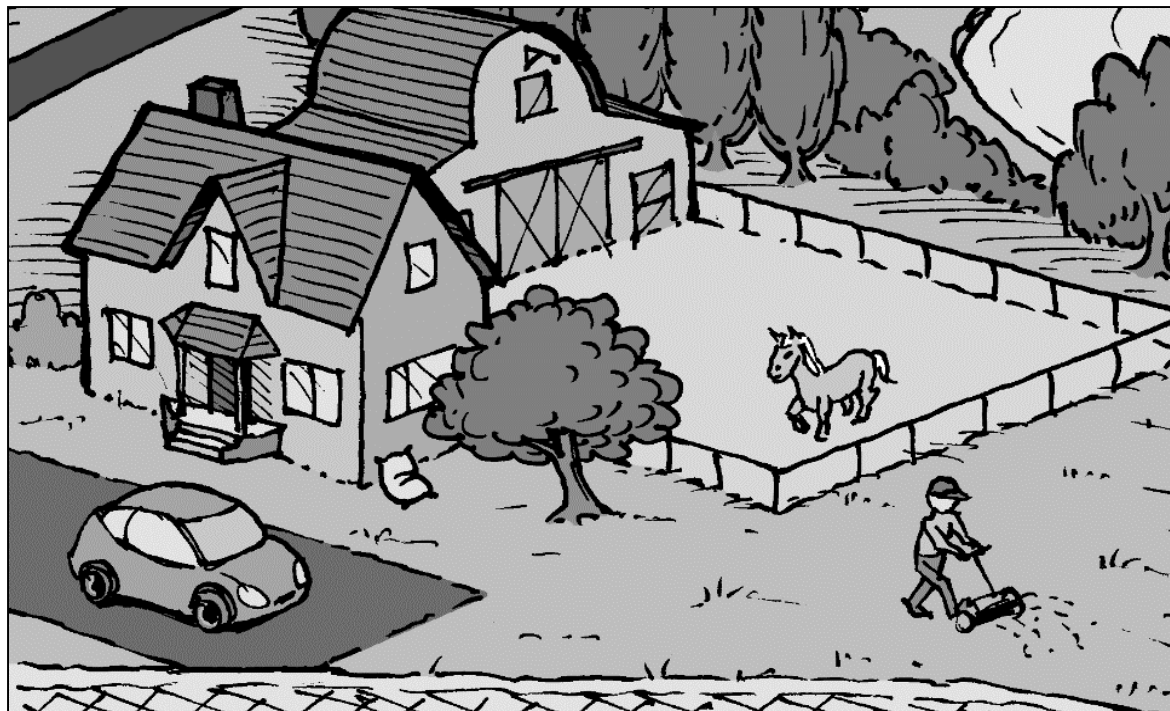








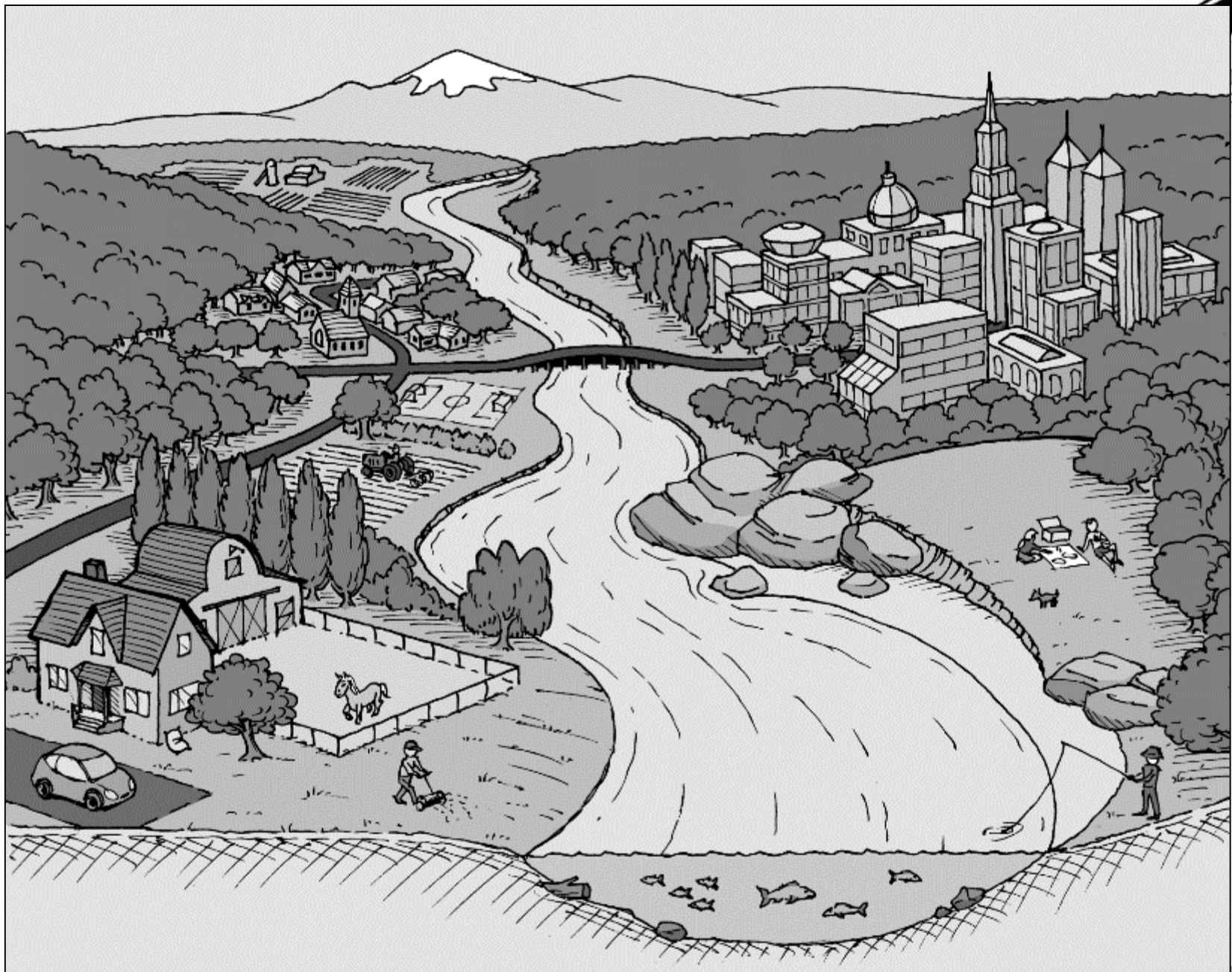








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TECTION

















# Resources to follow up with:

- HCW email list, newsletter,
- website, tip sheets – [Horsesforcleanwater.com](http://Horsesforcleanwater.com)
- HCW Face Book
- TheHorse.com articles,
- videos, slides shows
- Consulting with Alayne
- Sweet Pepper Ranch,  
guest ranch & horse motel





# Happy trails!





Contact:

Alayne Blickle, Horses for Clean Water

206-909-0225

[alayne@horsesforcleanwater.com](mailto:alayne@horsesforcleanwater.com)

