

## Why is Falls Lake important?

- ▶ Falls Lake is the primary source of drinking water for Raleigh and surrounding areas.
- ▶ Nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment are negatively impacting water quality of Falls Lake; new regulations require nutrient reductions.
- ▶ All contributors to nutrient loading in the watershed, including equine facilities, have been tasked with reducing their contribution of nutrients and sediment.

## What are “Best Management Practices” (BMPs)?

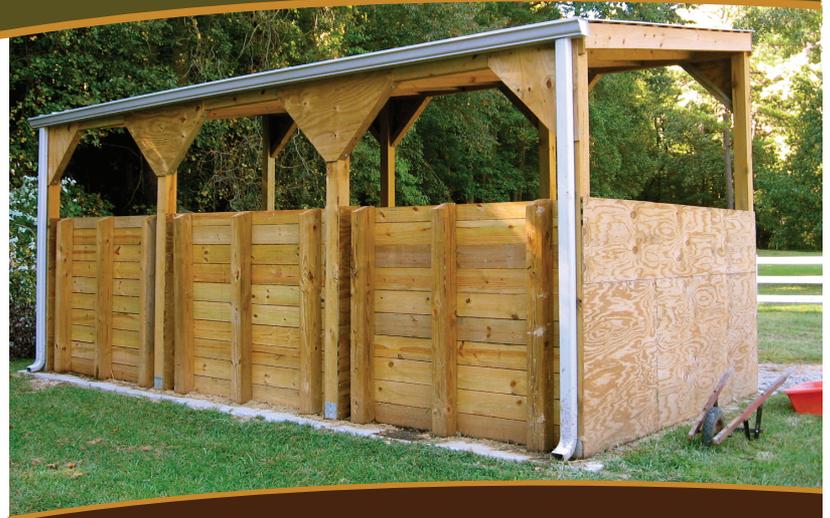
- ▶ BMPs are property improvements that limit the release of pollutants into surface water.
- ▶ On horse farms, these may include:
  - Installing fencing to prevent horses from entering streams.
  - Re-establishing stream buffers that have been damaged by equine use.
  - Renovating pastures and establishing “dry lots” (paddocks) to reduce erosion.
  - Manure management practices such as composting.
- ▶ In addition to improving water quality, BMPs can provide benefits to horse health and farm operation by reducing mud, improving pastures, and increasing chore efficiency.

## Who is eligible to apply for funding?

- ▶ Equine operations in Falls Lake Watershed where property improvements could reduce loss of nitrogen, phosphorous, and soil. Funds are limited and will be awarded based on pre-determined criteria.

## What are my obligations as an eligible equine operation owner if I receive funds to install BMPs?

- ▶ The ability to contribute 25% (or more) of the cost of installing BMPs. This can be a cash match, or commitments of materials, equipment, and/or labor.
- ▶ Maintain the BMPs for the lifespan of the practice, generally for a 10-year period.
- ▶ Install the BMPs in a timely manner.
- ▶ Eligible owners/operators must enter into a contract with their local Soil and Water Conservation District and meet contractual requirements.



## Overview:

*In an effort to improve water quality in the Falls Lake Watershed, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, in collaboration with project partners, has been awarded a grant to:*



Provide partial funding to install “best management practices” (BMPs) on select equine facilities in the Falls Lake watershed to improve water quality.



Provide education and outreach on nutrient reduction practices and property improvements to all equine operations and interested landowners.

## Grant funds are limited. How are farms selected?

- ▶ Applications for funds will be ranked based on pre-determined criteria. The criteria include, but are not limited to, proximity to rivers and streams in the Falls Lake watershed, the type of improvements, the amount of potential nutrient reduction, whether improvements can be maintained to achieve long-term nutrient reduction, and the owner’s ability to contribute the required match.
- ▶ Ultimately, the operations with the greatest potential for reducing nutrients will be selected, subject to the fund limitations of the grant award and owner participation.

# Landowner Fact Sheet

Farm Best Management Practices and Education for Equine Operations in the Falls Lake Watershed

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