

O K L A H O M A

Farm & Ranch*A*Syst

Assessment Planner

What is the Farm and Ranch Assessment System?

The Oklahoma Farm and Ranch Assessment System (Oklahoma Farm & Ranch*A*Syst) consists of a series of eight worksheets that will help you assess how effectively your farmstead practices protect your drinking water.

The worksheets ask help identify farmstead, ranch, or residence conditions that could be affecting the water from your well.

Along with each worksheet, you are provided with information sources to call or write for additional assistance.

How do I begin?

Step 1:

Begin by sketching a diagram of your farm or ranch using the grid on page 3 (see the sample diagram on page 2). This diagram will provide useful information to help you understand how your site's physical layout, soil types, geology, and land slope may contribute to (or lessen the effects of) possible contaminants reaching your drinking water.

You probably will not have as many sites of concern as in the sample

diagram. Include all of the following that apply to your farm or ranch:

- * All buildings and other structures (home, barn, shed, confinement house, etc.).
- * Wells and abandoned wells or windmills.
- * Septic system (tank, absorption field).
- * Livestock yard or holding pens.
- * Manure storage (temporary and permanent).
- * Manure disposal areas.
- * Underground petroleum storage tanks.
- * Above-ground petroleum storage tanks.
- * Pesticide and fertilizer storage, handling, and mixing areas.
- * Silage storage and feeding areas.
- * Milkhouse waste disposal system (septic tank, absorption field, drainage ditch, etc.).
- * Farm dumps and burn barrels.
- * Vehicle maintenance areas.
- * Subsurface drains, surface intakes, and open ditches.

Indicate surface water (ponds and streams), direction of land slope, ground water flow direction (if known), and soil information. Gener-

ally, ground water follows the slope of the ground and moves downhill towards surface water.

Step 2:

Use your diagram to note locations where potential contaminants are kept or used.

Step 3:

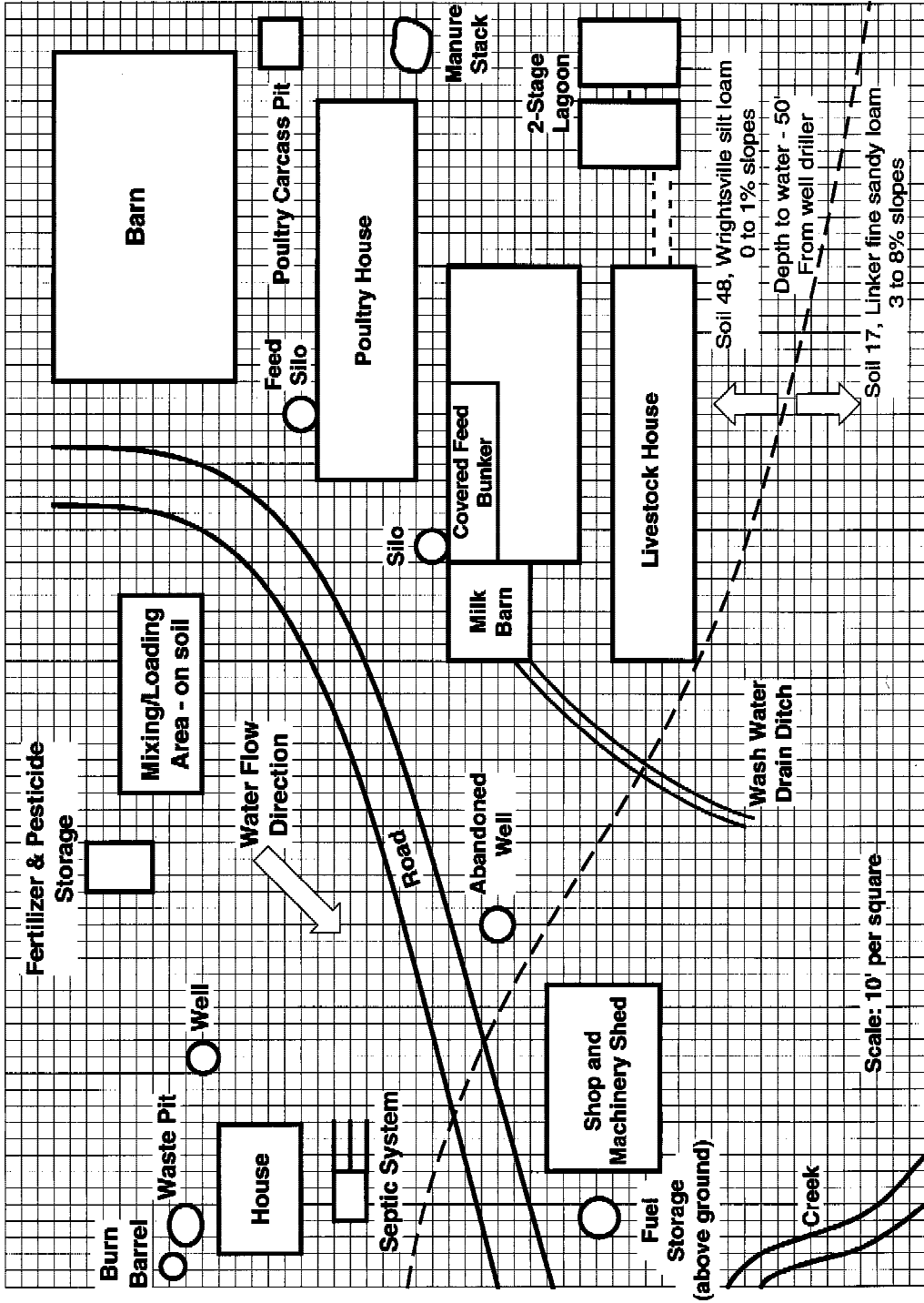
Complete the appropriate worksheets from the following:

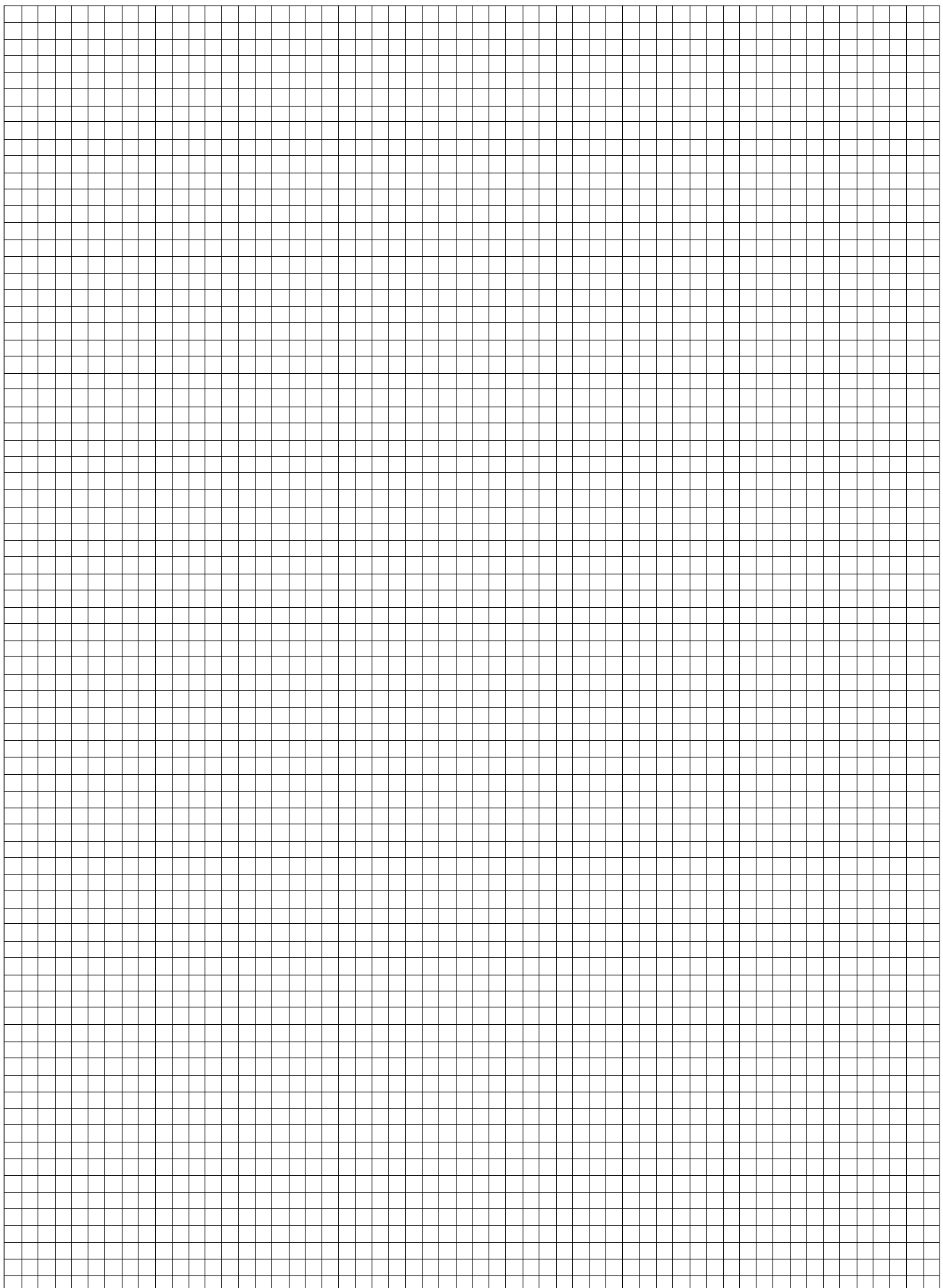
1. Drinking Water Well Condition.
2. Pesticide Storage and Handling.
3. Fertilizer Storage and Handling Waste Management.
4. Petroleum Product Storage.
5. Hazardous Waste Management.
6. Household Wastewater Treatment.
7. Dairy, Swine, and Beef Cattle.
8. Poultry Waste Management.

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Charles B. Browning, Director of Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. This publication is printed and issued by Oklahoma State University as authorized by the Dean of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and has been prepared and distributed at a cost of \$164.40 for 750 copies. #1163 0295 MSC.

Example





The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service—Bringing the University to You!

The Cooperative Extension Service is the largest, most successful informal educational organization in the world. It is a nationwide system funded and guided by a partnership of federal, state, and local governments that delivers information to help people help themselves through the land-grant university system.

Extension carries out programs in the broad categories of agriculture, natural resources, and environment; home economics; 4-H and other youth; and community resource development. Extension staff members live and work among the people they serve to help stimulate and educate Americans to plan ahead and cope with their problems.

Some characteristics of the Cooperative Extension system are:

- The federal, state, and local governments cooperatively share in its financial support and program direction.
- It is administered by the land-grant university as designated by the state legislature through an Extension director.
- Extension programs are nonpolitical, objective, and based on factual information.
- It provides practical, problem-oriented education for people of all ages. It is designated to take the knowledge of the university to those persons who do not or cannot participate in the formal classroom instruction of the university.
- It utilizes research from university, government, and other sources to help people make their own decisions.
- More than a million volunteers help multiply the impact of the Extension professional staff.
- It dispenses no funds to the public.
- It is not a regulatory agency, but it does inform people of regulations and of their options in meeting them.
- Local programs are developed and carried out in full recognition of national problems and goals.
- The Extension staff educates people through personal contacts, meetings, demonstrations, and the mass media.
- Extension has the built-in flexibility to adjust its programs and subject matter to meet new needs. Activities shift from year to year as citizen groups and Extension workers close to the problems advise changes.