	West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources						
	MANUAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROCEDURES						
Section	Drinking Water	Date	January 20, 2009	Procedure #	DW-39		
Subject	Horizontal Distance Between a Private Water Well and a Barnyard/Feeding Watering Area			Page	1	of	1

A question has been raised concerning interpretation of Table 64-46A of theWater Well Design Standards (2008) regarding the meaning of the terms barnyard/feeding and watering areas when establishing the required minimum 100 feet of horizontal distance separation to a water well.

A barnyard is defined in Water Well Design Standards 64CSR 46 section 3.10 as a fenced area for animals, which generally adjoins the barn on a farm. It applies to traffic alleys, holding pens, convalescent pens, maternity pens, calf pens and confined exercise yards.

A feeding area is considered equivalent to a feedlot.

A feedlot is defined in Water Well Design Standards 64CSR 46 section 3.26 as a lot or facility (other than an aquatic animal production facility) where the following conditions are met: 1. animals (other than aquatic animals) have been, are or will be stabled or confined and fed or maintained for a total of forty-five days or more in any twelve month period, and 2. crops, vegetation forage growth, or post-harvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over other portions of the lot or facility. Two or more animal feeding operations under common ownership shall be considered, for the purposes of this rule, to be a single feedlot if they adjoin each other or if they use a common area or system for the disposal of wastes.

Since the term, watering areas is not defined in the Water Well Design Standards 64CSR 46 rule it will be defined as a place where animals may obtain water and especially livestock come to drink. In addition, a watering area might contain water bowls, stations, or troughs.

Pasture or woodland areas used for the production of forage to be grazed by livestock generally have a surface layer with a high capacity to retain nutrients and water. The surface layer serves as a good zone to retain nutrients and microorganisms from animal-distributed manure. The manure nutrients are used for additional plant growth. As long as the pasture area remains productive (not overgrazed) the soil will retain organic matter, moisture, and microbial contaminants and protect ground water resources. The 100 foot horizontal distance separation would not be applied to such an area when installing a private, homeowner water well.

This memorandum does not apply to water wells used by public water systems. Water wells for these systems must be reviewed, evaluated, and approved on a case-by-case basis by the Environmental Engineering Division.

References 64CSR46, Water Well Design Standards

History Replaces DW-39 Dated June 24, 1994

Attachments