

# Soil and water quality - an agenda for agriculture

National Academy Press - Soils and Water Quality



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## **Soil and Water Quality : An Agenda for Agriculture by Long**

Eventually, these become food and fiber for human consumption. Each day, septic systems in North Carolina discharge more than 100 million gallons of sewage into the soil.

## **Agricultural Management Practices for Water Quality Protection**

Storage of pollutants in the structural tissues of trees represents a relatively long-term attenuation, but it still does not result in removal of pollutants from the ecosystem. A PDF is a digital representation of the print book, so while it can be loaded into most e-reader programs, it doesn't allow for resizable text or advanced, interactive functionality.

## **Water Quality for Crop Production**

The nutrients in water moving across the soil surface in a concentrated flow or percolating rapidly through soil macropores may not be susceptible to plant uptake. It is becoming increasingly clear the reliance on the command and control approach to environmental regulation will not, by itself, allow EPA to achieve its mission or many long established environmental goals. Pollutants moving in groundwater are accessible to plants only when the water table is high in the soil profile, such as in wetlands.

## **Water pollution from and to agriculture**

The cost of transportation and alternatives are problem free, however. Sedimentation occurs when water carrying eroded soil particles slows long enough to allow soil particles to settle out. Total dissolved solids, the soluble salts measured together as EC and individually in ppm of the element, can be removed by several water purification systems.

## **Soil and Water Quality: An Agenda for Agriculture**

Conservation Tillage and Residue Management Efforts to increase the use of conservation tillage and other forms of residue management should continue to be an important component of programs to protect soil and water quality. These include the concentration of livestock, which leads to

a shortage of available cropland to which manure can be applied, the buildup of nitrogen and phosphorus in soils after repeated manure applications, and high capital costs. This process, called soil erosion, has been a major cause of soil degradation in North Carolina for many years.

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