



Agriculture

Ontario's agriculture sector is important to our ecosystems, the economy, and public health. The Quinte Source Protection Area has a large, rural population which supports widespread agricultural activities across the watershed. Certain agricultural activities are listed as drinking water threats under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*. It is important to note that these activities are only considered drinking water threats within vulnerable areas around a municipal drinking water source (groundwater wells or surface water intakes).

Agriculture as a Drinking Water Threat

Certain agricultural activities are considered to be potential threats to municipal drinking water source due to the possibility for leaching of contaminants such as nitrogen, phosphorus, pesticides and bacterial into the municipal ground and surface water supplies. The Quinte Source Protection Plan identifies significant drinking water threat policies for agricultural activities for both existing and future activities in vulnerable areas such as, Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPAs), Intake Protection Zones (IPZs), and Issues Contributing Areas (WHPA-ICA or IPZ-ICA).



What Agricultural Activities are Considered Drinking Water Threats?

1. Application, handling and storage of agricultural sources materials.

Examples: Manure produced by farm animals, runoff from farm yards and manure storages, wash water from milking centre waste, compost, and source materials produced by the cultivation of fish or other aquatic organisms in a controlled environment.



2. Application and storage of non-agricultural source material.

Example: Storage of abattoir waste

Risk Management Plans

Risk Management Plans (RMPs) are required for agricultural activities considered to be significant drinking water threats in vulnerable areas. RMPs are negotiated with the people engaged in the threat activity and Risk Management Officials. The RMPs include management measures related to the threat(s) on the property. These measures may include the relocation of storage facilities, application guidelines, and/or the adoption of best management practices.



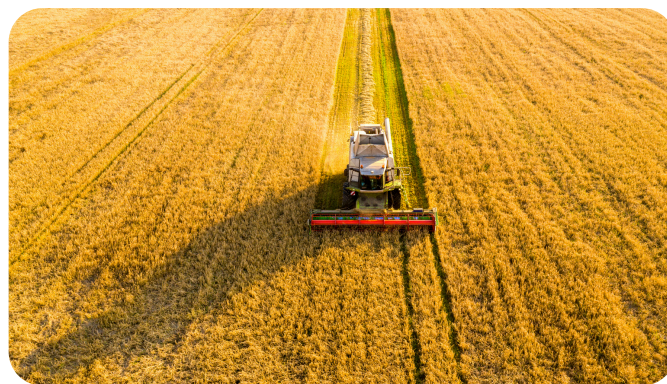
Restricted Land Use

Restricted land use allows municipalities to identify areas where agricultural activities are either prohibited or required a risk management plan (WHPAs A and B, and IPZs 1 and 2). This allows municipalities to create their own process to ensure that future development complies with the Quinte Source Protection Plan.



Prohibition

Some agricultural activities presently occurring or that may occur in the future will be prohibited within the most vulnerable areas around municipal drinking water sources (WHPA A and IPZ 1). The prohibition policies in the Quinte Source Protection Plan affect less than two hectares in the Quinte Source Protection Area.



Ministry Involvement

Where nutrient management plans/strategies exist or are being applied, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness is directed to review those plans/strategies with respect to protecting municipal drinking water sources/supplies. The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks is responsible for issuing and updating pesticide permits.