

THE SCHUYLKILL ACTION NETWORK



The Schuylkill Action Network (SAN) is a collaboration of over 150 organizations working together to protect and restore the Schuylkill River and the streams that drain to it. The SAN is composed of six workgroups, including the Agriculture workgroup, which works to improve drinking water by reducing pollutants coming from farms.

LET'S COLLABORATE!

Work in the Saucony Creek region proves that it is possible to improve drinking water through partnerships and informed land management decisions. You too can help your watershed and possibly save on water treatment costs by investing in agricultural practices similar to those in the Saucony Creek Watershed.

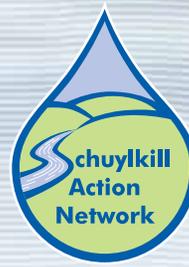
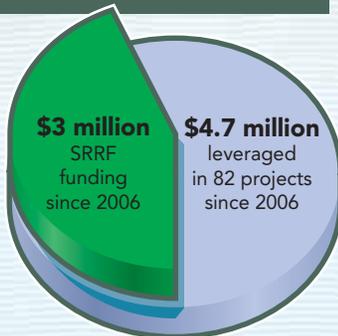


GET INVOLVED BY:

- Becoming a SAN member!
- Partnering with local environmental groups.
- Donating money to the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund, for more information go to schuylkillriver.org.

SCHUYLKILL RIVER RESTORATION FUNDING AND LEVERAGED FUNDING SINCE 2006

The grants focus on three major sources of pollution: stormwater runoff, agricultural pollution, and abandoned mine drainage.



Anyone can become a member!
Visit www.SchuylkillWaters.org



Twitter: [@SchuylkillWater](https://twitter.com/SchuylkillWater)
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INVESTING IN FARMS FOR CLEAN WATER



PARTNERS:





CLEAN WATER CAN BE ACHIEVED!

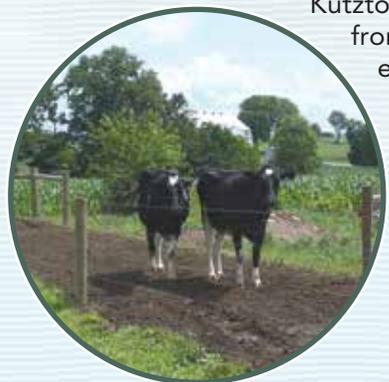
Throughout the Saucony Creek Watershed, agricultural practices for clean water were installed to improve the quality of the drinking water and reduce pollutants entering the groundwater system. In total, 31 projects were completed in the Saucony Creek Watershed, greatly reducing nitrate levels in drinking water to a stable level today. These efforts are helping to maintain clean, safe drinking water and productive farms in the Borough of Kutztown.

CASE STUDY: SAUCONY CREEK AND KUTZTOWN BOROUGH

- Fertile soils.
- 51% of land use is agricultural.
- Few surface water streams and many sinkholes. This means that changes in water quality on land will directly impact the groundwater quality below in a short amount of time.

CONNECTION BETWEEN LAND MANAGEMENT AND DRINKING WATER

Nitrate is found naturally in drinking water at low levels. But practices like heavy fertilizer use or improper manure storage can increase nitrate levels to concentrations that are unsafe for drinking water. In the



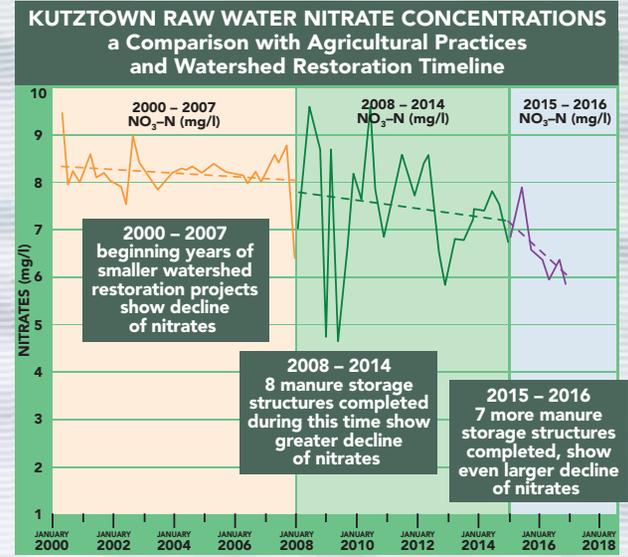
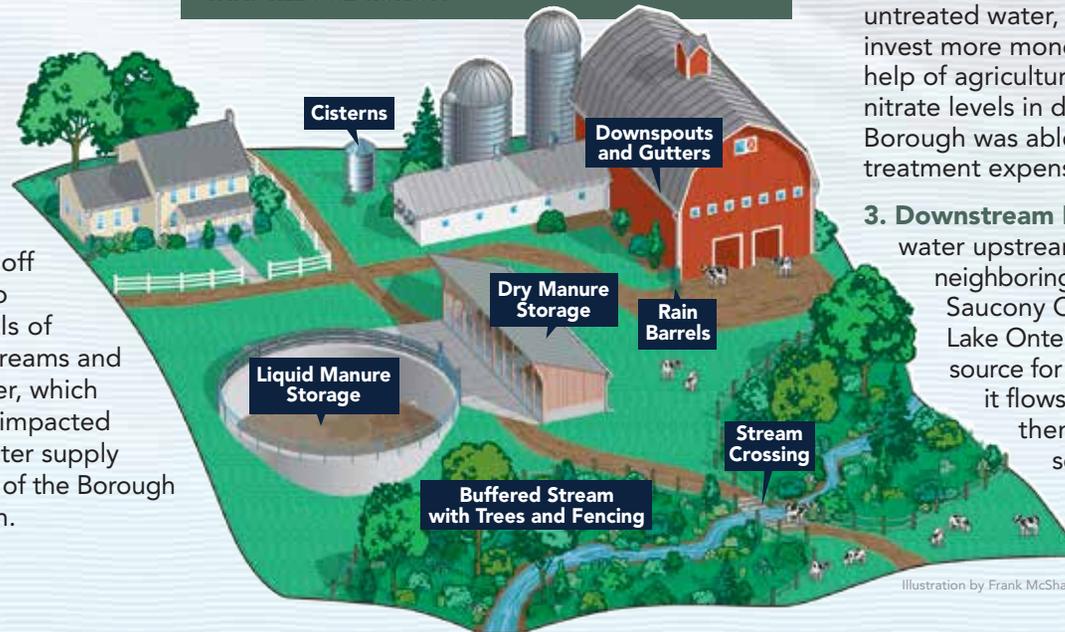
Kutztown area, runoff from land led to elevated levels of nitrates in streams and groundwater, which negatively impacted the raw water supply (untreated) of the Borough of Kutztown.

AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES FOR CLEAN WATER

- Storing Manure
- Controlling Stormwater
- Buffering Streams
- Planting Cover Crops
- Using Grazing Regimes
- and more!



AN EXAMPLE FARM SHOWING AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES THAT REDUCE RUNOFF



WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT NITRATES?

1. Human Health: High levels of nitrates may impact the body's capability to bring oxygen to the bloodstream, especially in babies. This can lead to a lack of oxygen in the blood causing skin to turn blue, a condition known as Methemoglobinemia, or "blue baby" syndrome.

2. Money: Because nitrate levels were high in untreated water, the Borough of Kutztown had to invest more money in water treatment. With the help of agricultural best management practices, nitrate levels in drinking water dropped, and the Borough was able to significantly reduce their treatment expenses.

3. Downstream Neighbors: Protecting land and water upstream will provide cleaner waters for neighboring towns downstream. For example, Saucony Creek Watershed is upstream of Lake Ontelaunee, which is the drinking water source for the city of Reading. From there, it flows downstream to the Schuylkill River then the Delaware River, which are sources of drinking water for millions of people – giving the Philadelphia Water Department and others a great reason to invest in projects upstream!

Illustration by Frank McShane