

How does nitrate get into your water?

Water polluted with fertilizer and manure contains nitrate, a chemical that increases the risk of bladder cancer and developmental defects in children born to mothers who drink contaminated water during pregnancy, among many other health risks.

Manure

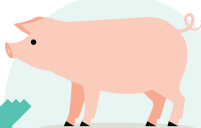
(2012 U.S. CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE)



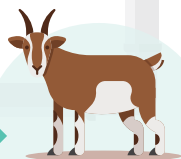
1.9 billion chickens



90 million cows in the U.S.



66 million pigs



9 million sheep & goats



100 million turkeys

Fertilizer

(2011 ERS FERTILIZER USE & MARKETS)



44 billion pounds applied to farms each year in the U.S.

Gullies and ditches can cut through farm fields, carrying fertilizer and manure into streams and rivers.

Nitrate seeps into the ground and waterways. Contaminated water then reaches private wells and water utilities, which must use filtration methods such as ion exchange or reverse osmosis to remove or reduce the contaminant.