

## *SURFACE WATER QUALITY PROGRAM*

### Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program

ISDA, in coordination with the Soil Conservation Commission and the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD), implement the Agricultural Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Monitoring Program. This program assists in fulfilling Clean Water Act and state requirements. ISDA also partners with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, EPA, watershed and basin advisory groups, and private landowners to implement this program. In cooperation with three IASCD water quality contractors, the Surface Water Program Manager monitors between 6 and 10 watersheds per year and establishes between 30 to 50 monitoring stations.

The goal of this program is to conduct monitoring to fill data and information gaps to assist in effectively implementing agricultural aspects of TMDLs. This program is staffed in Moscow, Boise, Twin Falls, and Pocatello.

### Pesticide and Surface Water Program

ISDA has implemented several pesticide surface water projects across the state of Idaho. ISDA will continue to conduct pesticide surface water quality studies.



Surface water on the Palouse.

## *MORE INFORMATION ON...*

ISDA's Water Program, water quality data, fact sheets, or reports go to:  
<http://www.agri.idaho.gov/Categories/Environment/water/indexwater.php>

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# *IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE*

## *Division of Agricultural Resources*

## **WATER QUALITY SECTION**



“Implementing agricultural programs with public and private partners to protect the ground and surface water quality in Idaho.”



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# ISDA WATER QUALITY SECTION

## OVERVIEW

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) Water Quality Section addresses a variety of issues that involve pesticides, fertilizers, animal waste, and other potential agricultural contaminants.

The goal of the Water Quality Section is to work with the agricultural community, industries, agencies, local groups and citizens to protect water quality in Idaho. The section is staffed with specialists in hydrogeology, hydrology, agriculture and environmental protection.

ISDA's Water Quality Section is designed to assist in implementing the Agricultural Ground Water Quality Protection Program for Idaho (1996), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Pesticides and Water Quality Program and Laws, Idaho Pesticide Management Plan (PMP), and ISDA Dairy and Beef Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Program Rules.



Well water sampling.

A cornerstone of the Water Quality Section is to assess potential or current agricultural impacts to ground and surface water quality and to implement protection measures.

## ISDA's Water Quality Section Programs

ISDA Water Quality Section implements 5 Water Quality Programs. They include:

- **Ground Water Monitoring Program**
- **Pesticide and Ground Water Program**
- **CAFO Water Quality Program**
- **Implementation and Education (I & E) Program**
- **Surface Water Quality Program**

## OBJECTIVES

Objectives of the programs are to:

- Work with agriculture and citizens to protect water quality.
- Assess the present status of ground and surface water quality related to agriculture.
- Identify ground water contaminant sources.
- Track water quality trends.
- Determine if legal uses of pesticides are contributing to water quality degradation.
- Implement the Idaho PMP Rule.
- Provide data to support the Idaho State PMP.
- Identify critical sub-basins within watersheds.
- Assess and determine impacts from dairy and feedlot facilities.
- Provide data to support BMP or regulatory evaluation processes.

## GROUND WATER PROGRAMS

### Ground Water Monitoring Program

ISDA conducts both regional and local-scale ground water testing across Idaho. ISDA regional monitoring projects are located in areas where ground water quality is susceptible to degradation from agricultural practices. Local ground water monitoring projects, designed to determine the source of ground water contamination, involve data collection in areas that are less than ten square miles.

### Pesticide and Ground Water Program

ISDA is the lead agency in developing the Idaho PMP for Ground Water Protection and the Rules Governing PMPs for Ground Water Protection. ISDA implements the Idaho PMP Rule by monitoring for pesticides in the ground water and taking appropriate actions based on the concentration of the detections.

### CAFO Water Quality Program

ISDA currently has several local-scale dairy and CAFO projects in several counties including: Washington, Cassia, Twin Falls, Gooding, and Owyhee Counties. The projects focus on testing for nitrate, nitrogen isotopes, and bacteria.

ISDA leads the CAFO Siting Team, which conducts environmental site evaluations of new or expanding dairies and feedlots. The results are used by county officials for decisions on permitting facilities.

### I & E Program

ISDA's I & E efforts includes coordination of the I & E Subcommittee of the Agriculture Ground Water Coordination Committee, development and distribution of education materials, and facilitation of educational workshops centered on water quality protection.