

## **Water Quality – Agricultural Run-Off**

Soil erosion from poor cropping techniques, excess fertilizer or pesticide run-off, and equipment fuel spills can all result in run-off pollution to nearby streams and lakes, as well as seepage into valuable underground aquifers. As the farm fields and animal feedlots erode with rain and snow, these contaminants wash off the land into nearby waterways. For example, the leading cause of toxic nitrate pollution in the water supply is the excessive or unnecessary utilization of manure and fertilizers. The nutrients fertilize our lakes and rivers to cause major algae blooms, especially during the warmest summer months. If algae levels are high enough, the oxygen can drop to unhealthy low levels in the water, suffocating fish and causing fish kills.