



# MUD MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

## Why Manage Mud?

Muddy conditions can make chores more difficult and expose livestock to skin and hoof diseases that often bring higher feed and veterinarian bills. Mud is also damaging to the environment—runoff of sediment contaminates surface water and is detrimental to fish and aquatic wildlife.

*Mud harbors bacteria, fungal organisms and other pathogens that cause livestock diseases such as abscesses, scratches, rain scald or thrush.*

## TIPS



1" of rainfall on a 12' x 12' roof produces 90 gallons of runoff.

## Install Gutters & Downspouts

Install gutters and downspouts on barns and shelters to collect and divert clean rain water away from animal confinement areas, stall entryways and other high traffic areas. Ideally the outlet for the gutters will be in a well-vegetated area that does not receive a lot of use, such as an unused section of pasture. Clean water can also be diverted to stock watering tanks, rain barrels or dry wells.

## Create A Confinement Area

A confinement area is a gravel or hogfuel area that is used to contain animals and keep them off pasture from late fall through early spring (October through March). During the rainy months, soils become soggy and easily compacted by the weight of livestock. This causes plant roots to suffocate and reduces the soil's capacity for holding water. Keeping livestock off pastures during the wet winter months will keep grass healthy and prevent mud.

