

# MCKENZIE WATERSHED

## HEALTHY FARMS CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

### Reduce Chemical Use on Farms

In the McKenzie Watershed, pesticides and fertilizers are used on a regular basis as part of conventional farming methods to manage weeds, reduce pests and increase crop yields. The current application of these chemicals to farm fields has the potential to run off of the land into streams or rivers during rain events and pose a threat to water quality and aquatic habitat. Water quality monitoring in the McKenzie has occasionally detected some low levels of pesticides in the river.

The purpose of this project component is to encourage farmers in the watershed to consider using fewer chemicals in their operations and/or consider transitioning to organic crops. Grant money is available to help cover costs associated with implementing best management practices that lead to reduced chemical use and/or a farmers' certification costs for transitioning to organic through Oregon Tilth's organic certification program.

### Organic Certification

For more information on transitioning to organic certification, contact Tiffanie Huson Labbe, Farm Program Manager, [tiffanie@tilth.org](mailto:tiffanie@tilth.org) (503-378-0690) or Erin Radniecki, Farm Program Assistant, [erin@tilth.org](mailto:erin@tilth.org) (503-378-0690). Several funding programs are available to help cover the costs of achieving organic certification.

### Evaluating/Reducing Chemical Use

For more information on reducing chemical use or to get an on-farm consultation about nutrient management, contact Ross Penhallegon at OSU Extension (541-682-7313, [ross.penhallegon@oregonstate.edu](mailto:ross.penhallegon@oregonstate.edu) ).

### Free Soil Sampling and Nutrient Management

To take advantage of free soil sampling on your farm or get assistance designing and building nutrient management systems (ex. manure storage, composting structures), contact Dave Downing at Upper Willamette Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) (541-465-6436 ext. 110, [dave.downing@or.nacdnet.net](mailto:dave.downing@or.nacdnet.net) ).

### Organicology Conference

Oregon Tilth is a sponsor of the Organicology Conference in Portland, February 10-12, 2011. Growers may be interested in attending this conference, especially a session on intensive soils.

<http://www.organicology.org/organicology/Home.html>