

AG WATER SAFETY

SAFELY USING CREEK WATER FOR CROP PRODUCTION

- Agricultural water, used to irrigate crops, carry fertilizers, & for spray applications, has the potential to house & transfer harmful microorganisms from animal & human waste to produce

- Surface water, like water from a creek, has the highest risk for contamination because it is hard to control what microorganisms enter the creek

What increases contamination risks?

- animals & pets entering creek
- runoff from livestock operations
- runoff from trash & manure piles
- sewage or septic leaching

If the water from your creek comes into contact with produce that will be eaten raw, consider mitigation measures to ensure the safety of your products

Mitigation measures:

- remove debris from the creek
- prevent animals from having access to the creek
- direct runoff away from creeks using berms & ditches
- schedule regular maintenance and evaluation of your entire irrigation system
- use drip irrigation rather than overhead watering
- test your creek water for the presence of E. coli five or more times per year

Untreated surface water is not suitable for post harvest activities

