

Module 1: The Clean Water Act

Section 4 Activity Option #2 Do I Need a Permit for That?



Instructions: Work with a partner or group to consider the following list of activities and determine if and what kind of water-related permit may be required to conduct the activity.

Helpful Resources:

- Kentucky Guide for Working in Stream Channels and Wetlands
- Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act brochure
- 40 CFR 122.23 or

Scenario 1: Case of the Driveway Dreams

You want to construct a small bridge over a creek as part of a driveway to the house you are planning to build. It will involve building a concrete pillar on each side of the stream to support the bridge. Do you need a permit? If so, what kind?

Scenario 2: Case of the Gravel Grabber

You own a big farm with a creek flowing through it, and you need some gravel to fill in potholes in your driveway and to add to a landscaping project in your yard. You plan to scoop some gravel out of your creek with a small front-end loader and transport it to where you need it. Do you need a permit? If so, what kind?

Scenario 3: Case of the Arid Apartments

You are planning to build an apartment complex of 3-acre plot of land that will disturb 1.5 acres. There are no natural waterways on the property. Do you need a permit? If so, what kind?

Scenario 4: The Case of the Safe Sampler

You want to collect a water sample in the creek that flows through the city park to determine if bacteria levels are safe for kids to wade in it. Do you need a permit? If so, what kind?

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Scenario 5: Case of the Farm Ditch Digger

You inherited a farm with a pond and a soybean field with multiple several irrigation ditches. You need to cut some new irrigation ditches to your field and maintenance your old ones. Your dad always just did what needed to be done and didn't ask questions, but you want to do things the right way. Do you need a permit?

Scenario 6: Case of I Want a Willow

You and your fellow nature enthusiasts are planning to work with the city to stabilize streambanks along about 1,000 feet of stream in your neighborhood. You plan to use mainly rock and the planting of willow tree stakes. Do you need a permit for that?

Scenario 7: Case of Baa Baa Bliss

You plan to begin raising about 1,000 sheep on your 400-acre plot of Bluegrass Bliss Farm. You plan to build a barn in which animals will be housed for 60 days during the winter. You plan to install a lagoon that will capture all of the manure runoff and will not ever discharge to a stream. Do you need a water-related permit for that?

Scenario 8: Case of Shady Creek Ain't So Shady Anymore

Your Friends of Shady Creek group want to plan a service day to remove invasive honeysuckle from the streambanks in the local park to make room for more desirable native plants. Do you need a permit for that?

Scenario 9: Case of Squawking Ranch

You plan to go big and start a farming operation with room to raise 100,000 chickens. Those birds are going to generate a lot of waste. Do you need a water-related permit for this?

Scenario 10: Case of the Lending a Hand for the Logjam

You and your neighbors are experiencing more flooding than usual on your property due to a logjam in the adjacent creek. You decide to schedule a neighborhood creek clearing party to free up the flow. Do you need a permit for that?