

## How the ABPA can help...

The American Backflow Prevention Association (ABPA) is an international organization that involves all people in protecting public health by protecting the drinking water through cross-connection control and backflow prevention.

The ABPA, through its regions and local chapters located throughout the United States and Canada, is committed to providing educational programs, technical assistance, and public awareness in the field of backflow prevention.

## Benefits of membership

- Networking opportunities with experts in the field of cross-connection control and backflow prevention.
- A vast library of backflow and cross-connection educational videos and books.
- Discounts to local and international conferences and workshops.
- Educational marketing materials relating to cross-connection control and backflow prevention.
- Technical assistance from water industry professionals in investigating incidents, establishing backflow prevention programs, educating the public, and more.



## National Rural Water Association

The State and National Rural Water Association network supports backflow prevention through training, assistance and resources to the nation's community water supply systems. Contact your State Rural Water Association or NRWA through [www.nrwa.org](http://www.nrwa.org). The nation's largest water and wastewater utility membership association serving 28,353 water and wastewater members.



## ABPA Membership

Membership in ABPA is open to anyone who has a common interest in protecting drinking water from contamination through cross-connections. ABPA is an organization dedicated to education and technical assistance. Through its network of regions and chapters, local needs and interests are supported with the resources of the national organization. ABPA is committed to advancing all aspects of backflow prevention for the continued protection of all water users. To learn more about memberships, visit [www.abpa.org](http://www.abpa.org) or call 979-846-7606.

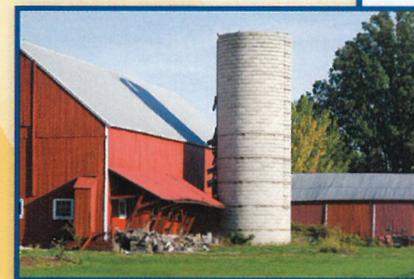
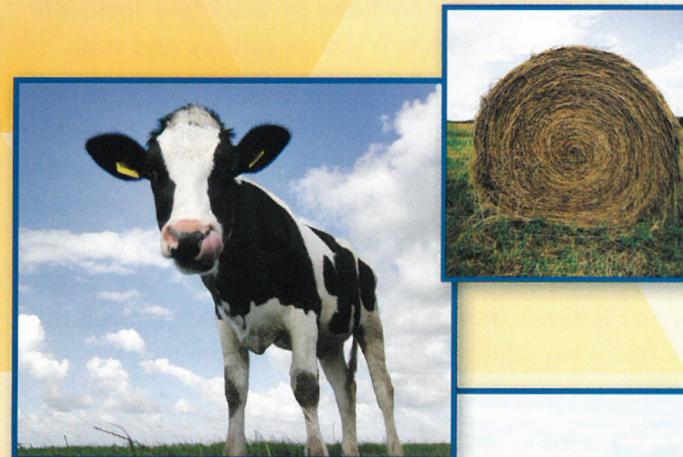
## Working to Protect Safe Drinking Water



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# Rural Water & Backflow Prevention



The American Backflow Prevention Association  
P.O. Box 3051  
Bryan, TX 77805-3051

[www.abpa.org](http://www.abpa.org)

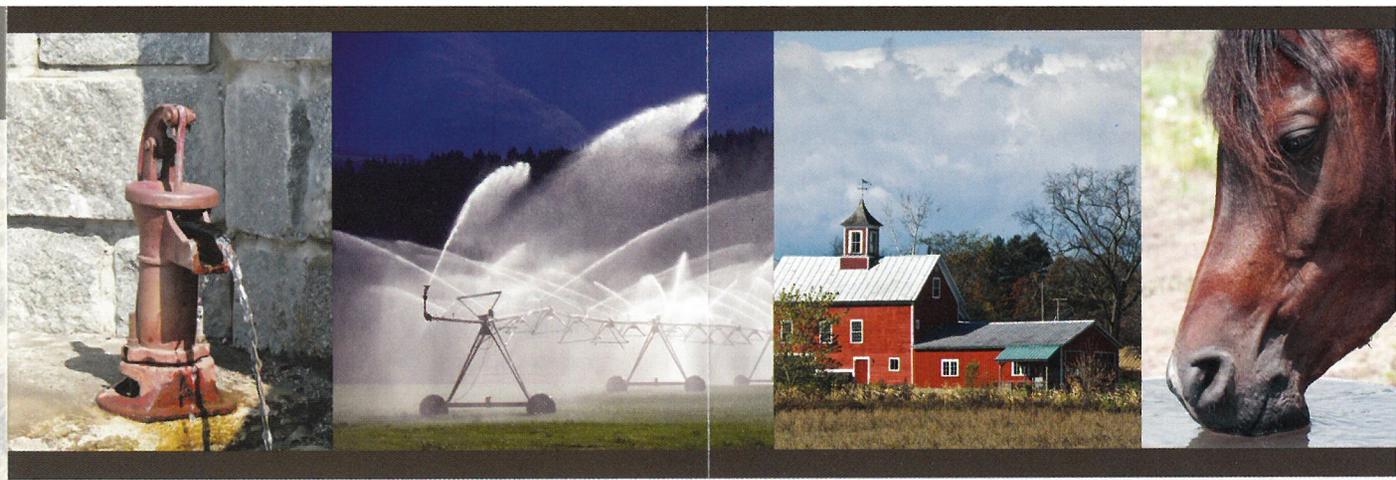
# Rural Water

The importance of water in rural settings drives the actions of the users to find unique solutions ensuring its availability, when and where it is needed. Though natural secondary water sources can be more common in rural areas, the use and need for drinking water is equally as important.

The goal of having a reliable, clean and safe source of drinking water is shared by all people. The risk to the quality of the drinking water through cross-connections or backflow incidents in rural applications is just as serious and real.

Backflow incidents occur when the flow of water is reversed, which can bring other non-potable liquids and substances back into the drinking water system. These incidents occur when cross-connections exist. Cross-connections are direct or indirect (temporary) connections between the drinking water and any other source.

Consequences of backflow incidents vary in severity from changes to the color or taste of water, to illness and even death. These incidents can be reduced and eliminated through proper backflow prevention.



## Examples of rural backflow incidents:

Approximately 300 gallons of a liquid containing a pesticide entered the public water system when three chemical spray trucks were filling from the system at the same time. The truck at the lower end of the system caused the contents of the other two trucks to siphon backwards into the water main. Exposure to the pesticide causes various harmful effects including severe central nervous system injury and death. **Correction: An air gap separation from the fill line and the tanks on the trucks or the installation of a high hazard backflow preventer could have prevented this incident.**

A property owner installed an auxiliary water system for irrigation. The auxiliary water was from a drainage pond which drained from an area previously used to empty septic tank pumper trucks. While the pump for the irrigation system was removed for repair a hose from the drinking water system was connected to the irrigation piping to ensure the plants continued to have water. When the pump was re-installed and turned on, it forced the water from the drainage pond through the hose connection and into the public water main. **Correction: Having an appropriate backflow preventer installed on the drinking water connection could have stopped the contaminated water.**

A family renting a farm house complained of stomach illness. Lab results on the water found algae and nematodes (worms) in the drinking water. They discovered the fill lines to the animal water troughs were connected to the supply line for the house. Luckily it was discovered before the contaminated water reached the public water main, but not before it affected the family's water in their home. **Correction: An air gap separation on the fill lines or a high hazard backflow preventer could have prevented their illness.**

A concrete plant had foamy white water coming out of their potable water system. It was discovered that the foamy water was coming from a nearby dairy farm. The dairy had installed backflow preventers due to a previous backflow incident, but when tested, it revealed one of the backflow assemblies failed and was not operating correctly. **Correction: Backflow assemblies should be tested at least annually to ensure they are operating correctly.**

