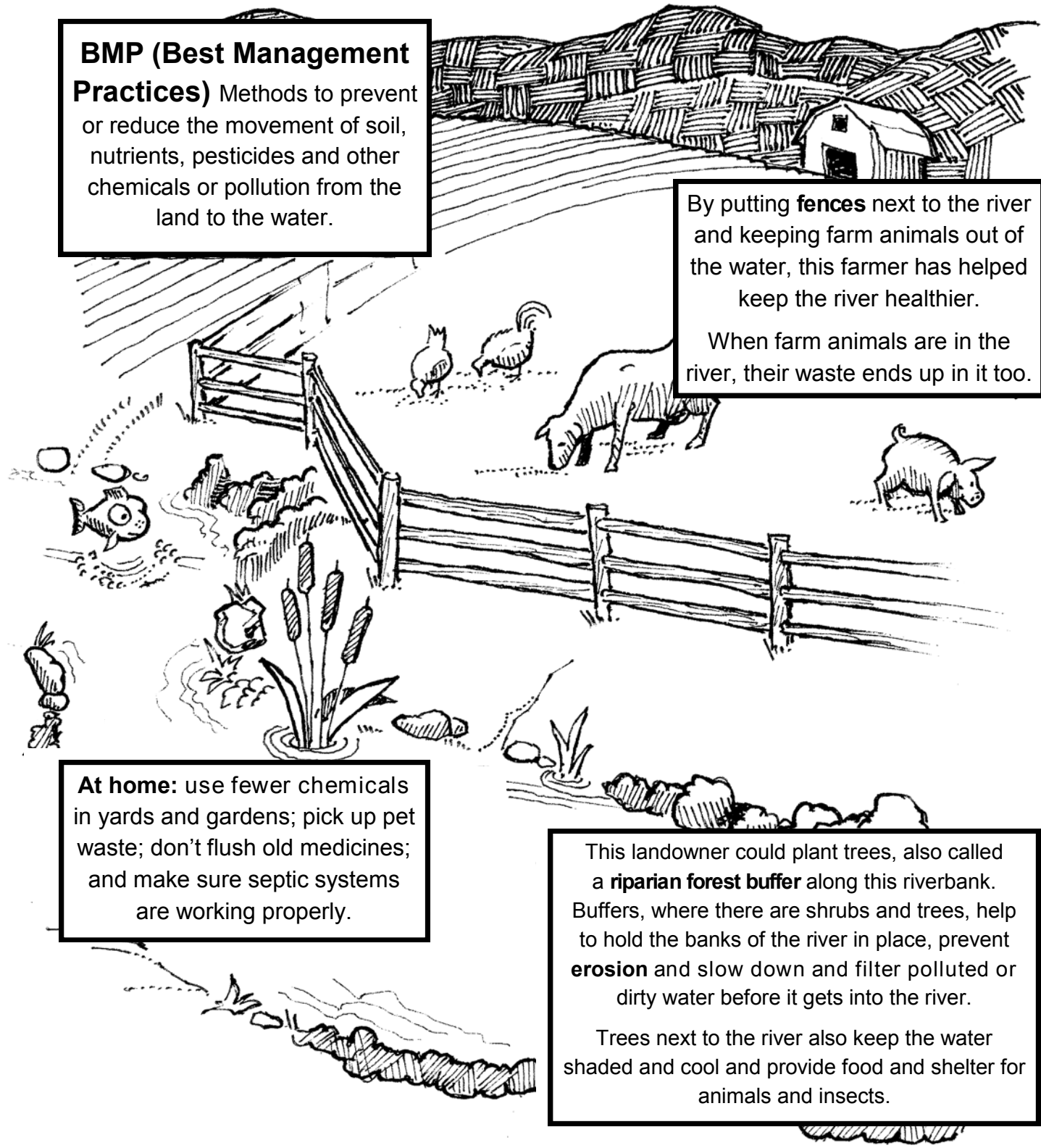


How do we Protect Rivers?



BMP (Best Management Practices) Methods to prevent or reduce the movement of soil, nutrients, pesticides and other chemicals or pollution from the land to the water.

By putting **fences** next to the river and keeping farm animals out of the water, this farmer has helped keep the river healthier.

When farm animals are in the river, their waste ends up in it too.

At home: use fewer chemicals in yards and gardens; pick up pet waste; don't flush old medicines; and make sure septic systems are working properly.

This landowner could plant trees, also called a **riparian forest buffer** along this riverbank. Buffers, where there are shrubs and trees, help to hold the banks of the river in place, prevent **erosion** and slow down and filter polluted or dirty water before it gets into the river.

Trees next to the river also keep the water shaded and cool and provide food and shelter for animals and insects.