

## Activity: Tarping a Mini "Manure" Pile

This activity helps to demonstrate how a tarp can keep rain out of your manure pile.

### What you'll need:

- One cup chocolate chips
- One package JELL-O powder
- Small mixing bowl
- Plastic wrap (e.g., Saran Wrap)
- Cookie sheet
- Watering can
- Water



**Step 1** Put the chocolate chips into the mixing bowl and add about 1/2 the package of JELL-O powder. Mix the two together.

**Step 2** Pour the chocolate chip/JELL-O powder mix in a pile on your cookie sheet. (This is your manure pile - the chocolate chips are the manure and the JELL-O is the nutrients in the manure.)

**Step 3** Cover the pile with a piece of plastic wrap - make sure the pile is covered completely. If the edges of the plastic wrap don't stick to the board or cookie sheet, you can either tape it down or weigh it down with some coins on the edges.

**Step 4** Use the watering can to sprinkle water over the plastic wrap. Does the water run off the plastic wrap and stay clean? (This is what happens when you cover your manure pile.)

**Step 5** Take the plastic wrap off and sprinkle water over the pile. Does the water mix with the JELL-O and become contaminated? (This is what happens when you DON'T cover your manure pile - rainwater mixes with the manure and carries the nutrients away with it!)

# The Importance of Snags



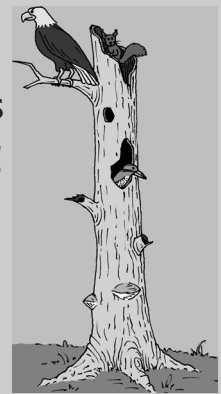
## Wildlife Winner

### Save a Snag

Snags—dead trees that are still standing—are also important to lots of wildlife. Birds like woodpeckers and chickadees can find lots of insects to eat in snags. The holes in snags also provide birds like owls, nuthatches, swallows, and wrens a place where they can escape from bad weather, build nests, and raise their young. Creatures like salamanders, tree frogs, and bats find shelter under the loose bark of snags. Snakes sometimes hide in tree cavities and many other animals use these spaces to store food.

Snags also provide a great place for birds like eagles, hawks, and owls to perch while they are hunting for mice and other rodents on the ground. Birds can see their prey more clearly from a snag than a live tree because a snag doesn't have any leaves.

If you have a snag somewhere on your horse place and it's not anywhere that might be a safety hazard, leave it in place instead of cutting it down.



### Activity: Wildlife Fill-in

- 1 All animals need \_\_\_\_\_ to survive.
- 2 Birds like eagles, hawks, and owls like to perch on snags when they are \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 The loose \_\_\_\_\_ of snags can provide shelter for salamanders and tree frogs.

