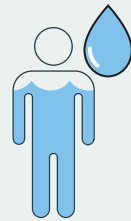


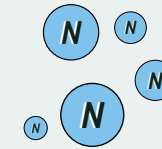
# THE NITRATES DIRECTIVE IN A NUTSHELL



Nitrogen is a vital nutrient that helps plants and crops grow, but high concentrations are harmful to people and nature.



Pure, clean water is vital to human health and to natural ecosystems.



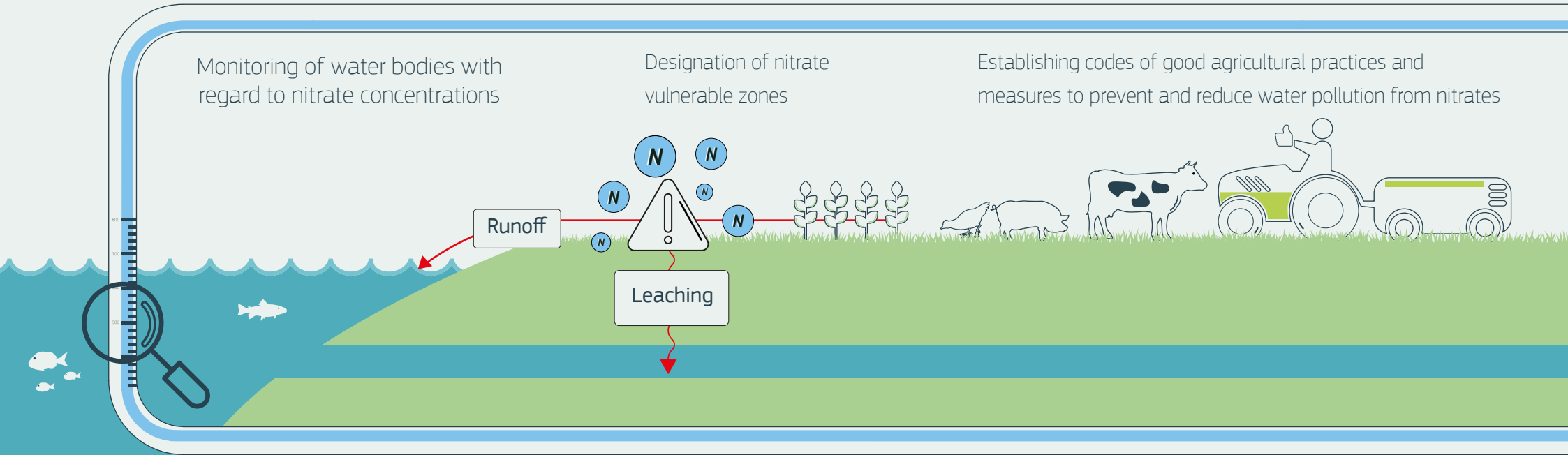
Excess nitrogen from agricultural sources is one of the main causes of water pollution in Europe.

The EU wants to reduce water pollution caused by nitrates used in agriculture and sets out steps for EU countries to take

Monitoring of water bodies with regard to nitrate concentrations

Designation of nitrate vulnerable zones

Establishing codes of good agricultural practices and measures to prevent and reduce water pollution from nitrates



Keeping track of progress