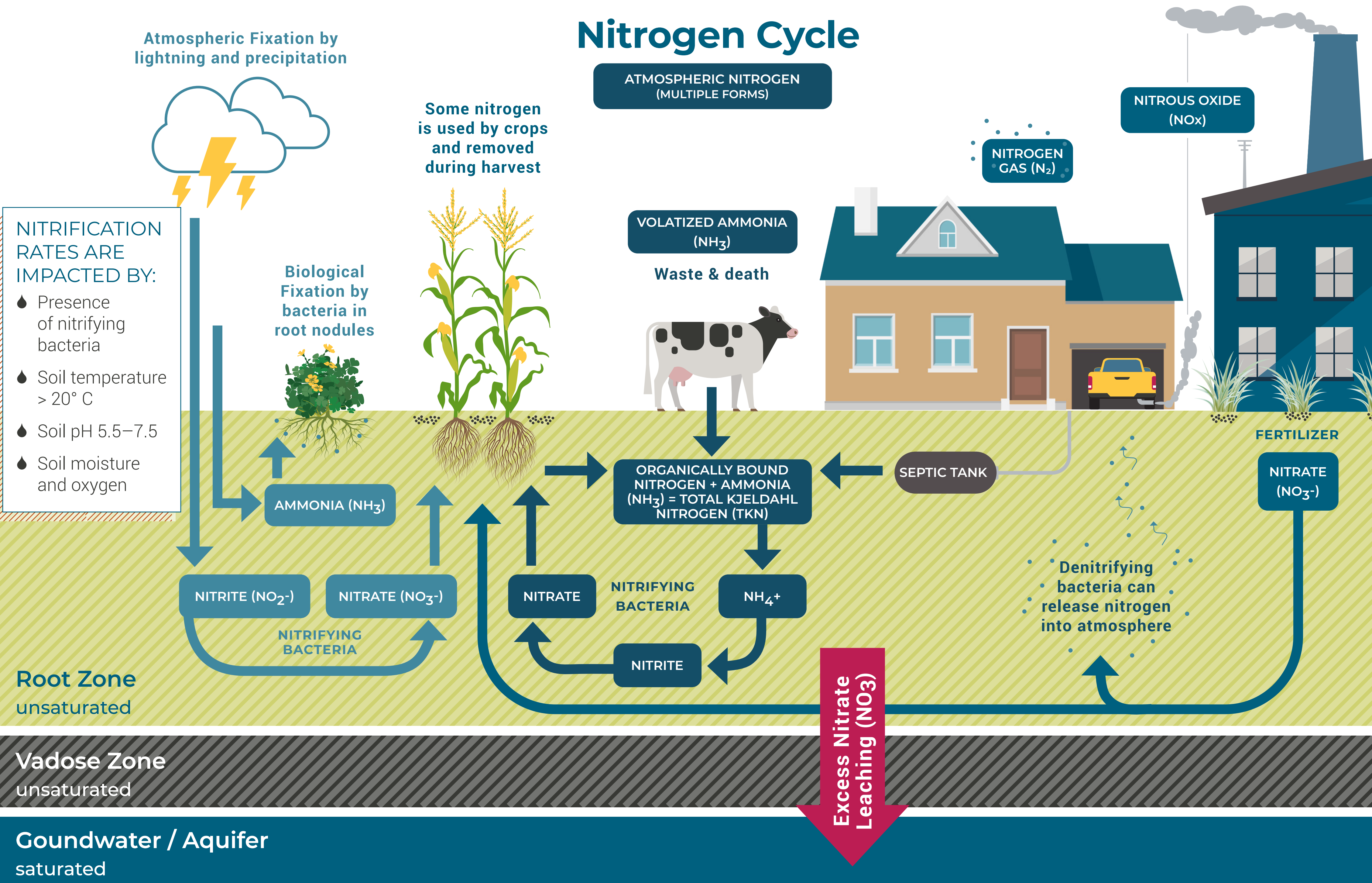


BACK TO BASICS: NITRATE

Nitrate contamination in groundwater used for drinking water is a risk to public health.



WATER MANAGEMENT IN NEBRASKA

Who is in charge of what?

DRINKING WATER Public versus Private

- NDEE regulates Public Water Systems (PWS) under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).
- The maximum contaminant level for nitrate in PWSs is 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L).
- PWSs must address nitrate levels above 10 mg/L in the water they are providing customers.
- Private domestic wells are not regulated by the SDWA.
- Well owners should test their drinking water wells annually, at a minimum, for nitrate and bacteria.

	WATER QUANTITY	WATER QUALITY
SURFACE WATER	<p>Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitors Streamflow Coordinates State Water Planning & Review Process Administers Water Compacts Regulates Dams Delineates Floodplains Permits Surface Water & Instream Use Plans Integrated Water Management <p>NRDs + Game and Parks Commission (GPC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instream Water Rights for Fish, Wildlife, and Recreation 	<p>Nebraska Dept of Agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulates Pesticide Use <p>Nebraska Dept of Environment and Energy (NDEE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitors Drinking Water Quality Monitors Surface Water Quality Issues National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits Responds to Spills
GROUNDWATER	<p>NDNR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permits Induced Groundwater Recharge Registers Wells <p>Natural Resources Districts (NRDs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operates Rural Water Systems Manages Groundwater Extractions and Permitting Conducts Integrated Water Management Plan 	<p>NDEE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licenses Contractors and PWS Operators; Enforces Well Standards Permits Animal Lots, Industrial/Municipal Waste Water Coordinates and Licenses Chemigation Permits Injection, Mineral Production, and Public Water Supply Wells Remediates Contaminated Sites <p>NRD + NDEE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitors and Regulates Groundwater Quality <p>NDNR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manages Groundwater Extractions and Permitting