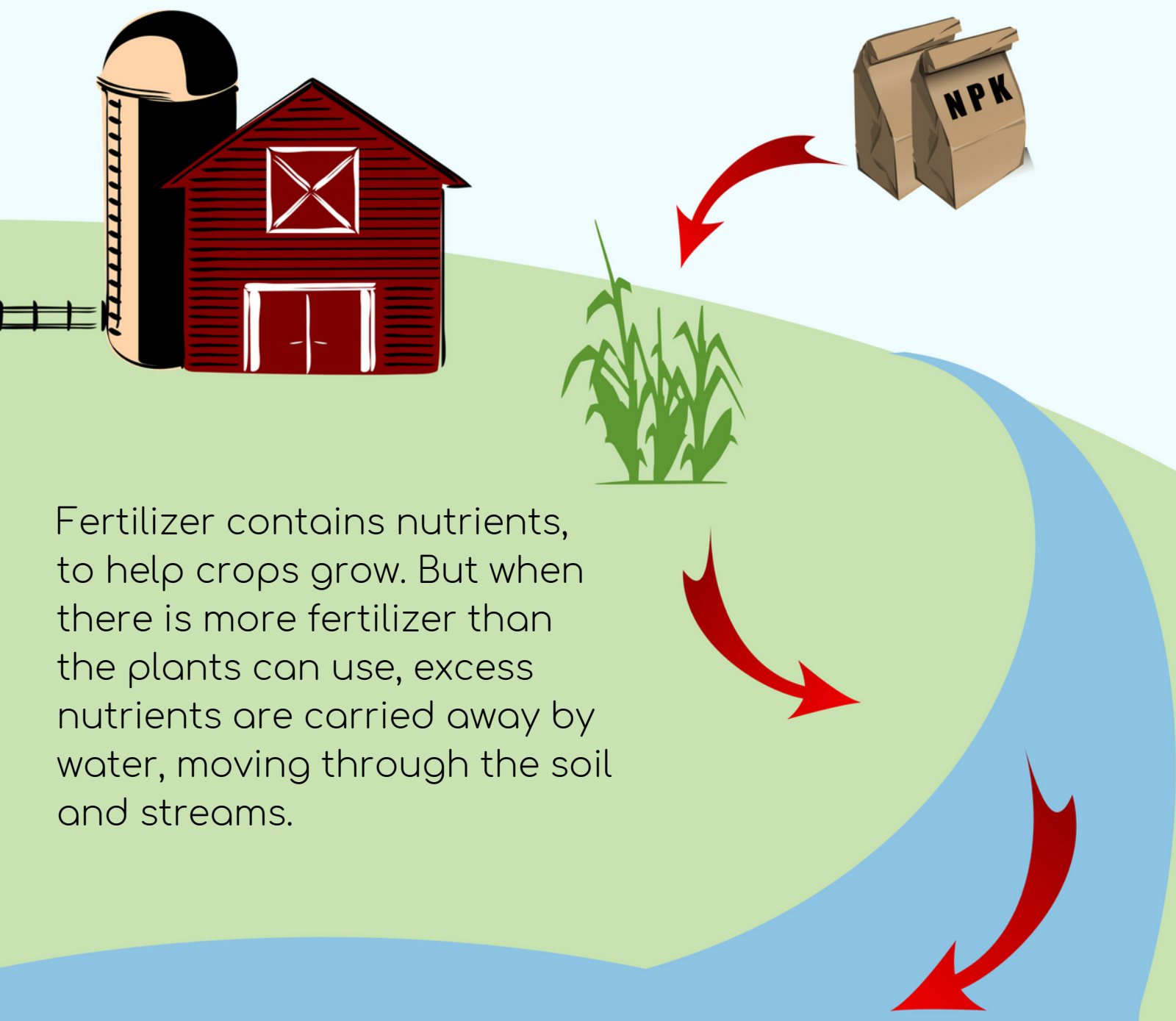


HUMAN ACTIVITIES IN THE WATERSHED CAN AFFECT THE LAKE

Lots of factors influence a farmer's decisions about how much fertilizer to use. For example, different crops need different amounts of nutrients, and the price of fertilizer can fluctuate.



Fertilizer contains nutrients, to help crops grow. But when there is more fertilizer than the plants can use, excess nutrients are carried away by water, moving through the soil and streams.

Lakes naturally contain nutrients, which animals & plants need to survive. But when extra nutrients flow into the lake from the surrounding watershed, the nutrient levels can become too high.

Nutrient levels that are too high can lead to sudden growth (or "blooms") of microscopic plant-like organisms, called phytoplankton. This can cause:

Unpleasant smell & appearance of water, and in some severe cases, toxicity to people & animals.

Climate change is expected to increase the frequency of phytoplankton blooms in many lakes.

For a clear lake, doubling the amount of nutrient inputs would be enough to shift the lake to the next highest classification of nutrient concentrations.

