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Spring Development 2000-C

Project #: 2000-C

Co-operator: Bob Farr

Sponsor: Grey Wooded Forage Association

Funded by: P.F.R.A.



The Completed Project

Update:

The project is now complete. This project started out initially with developing one spring source supplying water to one 750 gallon tire tank for winter use. This installation was completed in January, 2001 with a resulting water flow of near 4 gpm. This turned out to be successful although the location of the tire tank could be improved upon and the project needed to be expanded to accommodate the Farr.s 600 cow herd.

We applied to P.F.R.A. for funding for this development and were approved to go ahead with a system that tied in another spring near the first one and supplied the relocated 750 gallon tire tank as well as two 1100 gallon tire tank on good hard ground. Gerald Knopp did the surveying to determine the positions for the tanks. Neil McBride of McBride Excavating and Daryl Schmalzbauer of SOS Bobcat Services did the excavating for the project while Bob Howard hauled the tire tanks from Calgary. Red-L Distributors of Red Deer provided the 4 inch pipe for the installation. Bob and Robby Farr did much of the hand work needed to complete the project. Upon completion on August 15, the system was producing a whopping. 17.6 gallons per minute, enough for the Farr.s to consider using the water supply for summer irrigating of some of the pasture/hay field. Not only has this new water system provided an energy free source of fresh water for the Farr's 600 cows, the cattle won't have to go slip-sliding down the steep bank to the North Raven River and the river can now begin to recover from the damaging effects of intensive and continuous cattle pressure - a win/win for all.



Backfilling the Trenches



A mid-day conference at the first tank

Background:

A Spring Development Project - a model for neighbors to see!

About two years ago, Grey Wooded Forage Association got involved in a riparian project that we hope will be a model to many of our members. Initiated by one of our members, we were invited to visit an upstream cattleman who was watering his cows from a major fishing stream during the winter and spring months. Needless to say the cows made an annual mess of the streambank and the water that flowed away. Interestingly, the cows also suffered the occasional injury as they would slide down the icy streambank to get their daily drink of water. During calving season, the restless mothers would travel across the frozen ice to find some isolated calving site resulting in hours of searching for the protective mother.



Robby Farr in the Trenches

Also on that very same farm is a spring flowing from the hillside that could act as an excellent watering source. With a bit of research and guidance from experienced farmers and government specialists, we made an agreement with the rancher that if he were to cover the majority of the costs of developing the spring, we would do the organizing of its construction. He was happy with that as it allowed him to spend his days caring for his cattle and was good for us as we could do riparian work that would provide us with a site for future demonstration. Combining our efforts and a bit of money from AESA and PFRA we went ahead with the project.

The result of our work as of January, 2001, is that we had a 36 inch culvert placed vertically into the spring head. From the culvert, the water flowed through 4 inch flex tubing, which was trenched in to a depth of 3 feet, to a big 7 foot tire tank. As the water flowed into the tank, it filled to a certain height at which point it flowed out again and continued downstream. Director, Gerald Knopp was a significant source of information as he has considerable experience with spring development.



Ken Zeigler, enjoying a mud bath in January