Rains cause rills

Develop a pasture "water fountain"

LEESPORT - Springs in farmers inspect it on occasion to pasture fields are sometimes a nuisance, creating a favorite swamp hole for cattle and sheep to "muck" through on hot summer days. But, if developed, these same springs could be turned from miserable marshes to functional, refreshing "water fountains" for livestock.

Converting this drainage problem into a working watering system requires a three-part plan, according to Tina Didyoung, soil conservation technician with the Berks County Soil Conservation Service. First, the seepage needs to be collected, before it works its way out on the gorund's surface, through a series of tile lines which lead into a collection box or "well." From here the water feeds into a pipeline a gravity flows to a trough.

Once the spring development is completed, Didyoung recommends

gauge the degree of sediment or debris buildup. She suggests copper pipe or cleaning pads be placed in the spring box to "reduce accumulation of algae in the storage system." Didyoung also advises farmers to fence livestock away from any exposed collection

"When inspecting the spring box, check to see if there is still a water-tight connection between the box and the pipeline," reminds Didyoung. "Air locks occur if the pipeline has sags; these can be removed by pumping water through the line. To prevent air locks you can install air vents in the spring box or re-lay the pipe on grade without sags or high points."

Surface drainage and overflows should be diverted away from the watering facility, she adds. And gravel or paving adjacent to the

as improve access by livestock.

water level device and overflow to properly, she concludes.

trough will protect the area as well Frequently check the automatic assure that it is operating

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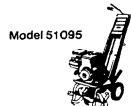
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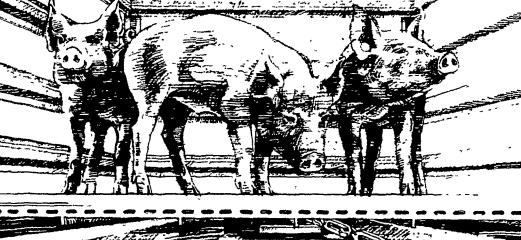
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