

Garden Spot's Erosion Control Project

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Reroute section

During school, about 100 FFA students from Garden Spot, together with contractors and other agencies who donated time and equipment, helped reroute a 350-foot section of the Black Creek. The creek, which runs through the Harold Wentzel Farm in Terre Hill, created erosion problems for the farm.

To help stop streambed erosion, the creek was literally cut short — rerouted to a 150-foot section — and a farm equipment/cattle crossing section was built. Shot rock — irregular-size shards of blasted limestone purchased from Martin's Limestone — was hand-placed by FFA members from Garden Spot.

Permanent fencing will be installed at a later date, according to Robert Lauffer, ag science instructor at Garden Spot and advi-

battle for erosion control was keeping the cattle out using fencing, according to Lauffer. Later on, willow trees — just like the trees planted 10 years ago on a similar project on the nearby Hoover Farm — will be planted near the stream bank to further control erosion.

Erosion problem

"We had finished work on the upstream side on the Edward Hoover farm," said Lauffer. "We worked there on a BOAC project, planting trees and various things." But something had to be done about the erosion problem on the Wentzel farm, said Lauffer. "Tom (Wentzel) was a graduate of our FFA program and understood what we were trying to accomplish and was cooperative."

Lauffer said that the location was important. "The Black Creek, from its headwaters to its conflu-

number of years, we can start having a real impact on that stream." The Black Creek is an eventual tributary to the Conestoga River,

donated about \$550 for this effort. Using railroad ties for steps, a cattle crossing was erected by the students. The banks were sloped

Cattle control
The emphasis is being placed on cattle control, a prime culprit in stream bank erosion.

"I learned a lot about how things erode," said Eberly. "I guess the biggest thing I learned is how the cows affected the erosion process and how fast everything changed in the environment over a period of time, with the sloping and the techniques we used."

"The primary weapon is really keeping the cattle out," said Lauffer. "But the grass helps a great deal."

"The biggest improvement we made is to put this permanent fence across," said Phil Oglie, chairman of the Garden Spot agrisci-

To help stop streambed erosion, the creek was literally cut short — rerouted to a 150-foot section — and a farm equipment/cattle crossing section was built.

which eventually connects to the Chesapeake Bay.

The Lancaster Co. Conservation District helped fund the project, as well as the Adult Farmer Program of Eastern Lancaster County. Don Robinson, of the Adult Farmer Program, laid out the channel specifications, slope, drainage, and other factors. Other agencies that made contributions include the Adamstown Rod and Gun Club, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Penn Dutch Sportsmens' Association, and the townships of Brecknock and East Earl.

In 1986, applications were placed with the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Environmental Resources (DER), and the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. Three years later, in August of 1989, groundbreaking began.

Field trips

"We went out at different periods of the day," said Shawn Eberly, a senior, now BOAC chair, about the start of the project. "We took field trips out there for our class time."

Trackhoe equipment funded by donations by Brubacher Excavating changed the channel course. After the channel was appropriately filled, Martin's Limestone brought shot rock to the site. Using a skid loader, students moved the rocks from the pile onto the creek. There, they hand-placed the rock along the stream bank.

Permanent fencing to keep cattle out of Black Creek was installed on the Ed Hoover side of the bridge, upstream from the Wentzel site. The Northeast Lancaster Co. Rod and Gun Club

and seeded and a temporary fence was placed around the seeded area to keep the cattle out.

'The primary weapon is really keeping the cattle out,' said Lauffer.

The excavating of the new channel was completed in late October 1989. Riprap was laid for equipment crossings adjacent to the cattle crossing. Special fencing will be placed on the Wentzel site at a later date, in addition to fencing to allow the cattle to move to the other side of the stream at the crossing.

ence cluster. "It keeps the cows out of this stream. I feel that is one of our major accomplishments."

Note: Next week Lancaster Farming looks into what the Garden Spot BOAC Project will do for the students and the community. We'll also profile some of those involved with the program.

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sor to the project. Next spring, additional fill, final grading, seeding, and tree planting near the creek will complete the project.

The primary weapon in the

ence with the Little Muddy, is all in the Eastern Lancaster County School district," he said. "So we felt like maybe, if we can do a little bit at a time, over the next X-



Shawn Eberly, Garden Spot senior and FFA BOAC chairperson, stands next to the shot rock placed on the Black Creek streambed, a major effort of the FFA BOAC Project.



Shelly Oglie, president of the Grassland FFA and former chairperson of the project, left, shows the temporary fencing placed along the creek along with Shawn Eberly, current BOAC chairperson. Permanent fencing will be installed at the same location next year.



Project advisor Robert Lauffer, right, describes the course of the riprap making up an equipment crossing at the Black Creek BOAC project. Dr. Phil Oglie, chairman of the Garden Spot agriscience cluster, crouches at the edge of the railroad ties used for the cattle crossing.

Wheat Reduction Set At 15 Percent

LEESPORT (Berks Co.)— The U.S. Department of Agriculture intends to require a 15 percent acreage reduction for the 1991 wheat crop, according to Donald E. Lutz, chairman of the Berks County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS).

"Other provisions of the 1991 wheat program will be announced as soon as they become available," Lutz said. Knowledge of how much land will be idled will help producers plan for the coming year, he said.

USDA plans to continue the Export Enhancement Program in 1991 to make sure America wheat remains competitive in world markets according to Lutz. The program is available in 41 countries.

Under the 1990 wheat program, farmers had the option of choosing a 5 percent acreage reduction or the modified acreage reduction program which enabled them to increase their wheat plantings.

"Final provisions of the 1991 program will be announced soon after the 1990 farm bill is enacted," the ASCS official said.