Tulpehocken Watershed

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hocken, which feeds into the Blue Marsh.

With stream bank fencing, cattle will be kept out of the Tulpehocken and this will reduce sediment load substantially, he noted.

On the Troutman farm, similar projects were installed to help manage nutrients, ensure stream bank stability, stem soil erosion, and ultimately improve herd health.

In February 1996, about 1,400 feet of stream bank fencing was installed to stabilize the streambed near were cattle graze using 319 funds.

A portion of the fencing is cut into a "V" shape to allow cattle limited access to the water. The system includes double-wire, high-tensile, Australian-type fence.

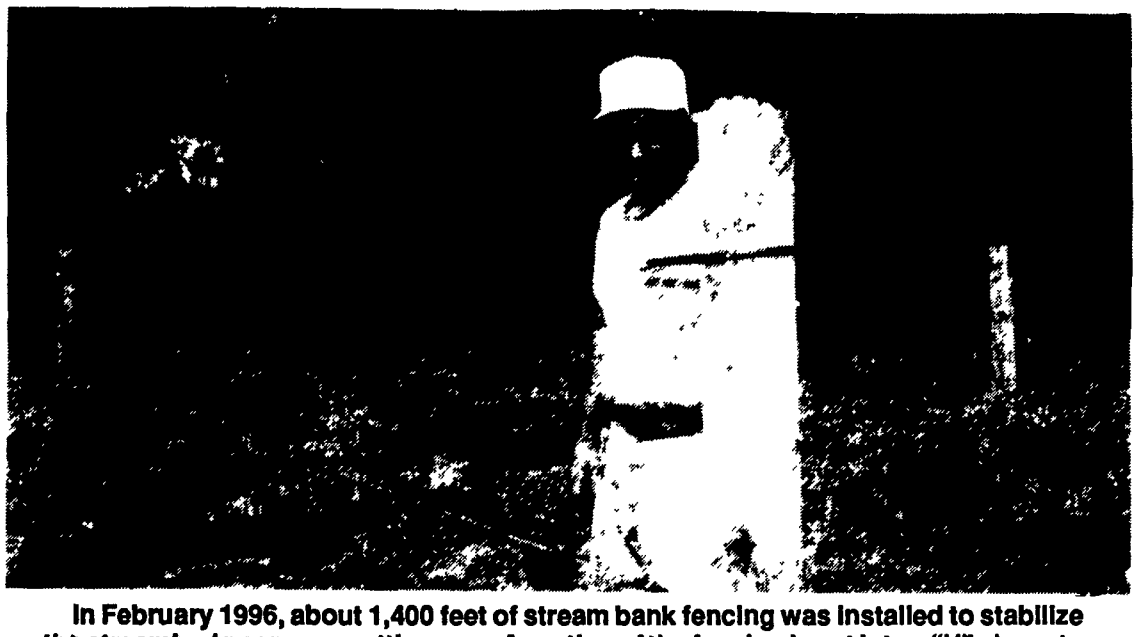
A few years ago, a laneway was constructed over the stream, using a 24-inch pipe and crushed stone.

Also, in the spring of 1997, grass waterways were installed to separate two corn fields.

Richard Troutman said that the limestone, clay-bottom ground holds water in a dry year. Last year, despite a persistent drought, the farm harvested 150 bushels per acre of corn. All hay and corn is chopped for silage.

Troutman installed two earthen-bank manure storage structures. Each provides 6-month storage. One, measuring eight feet deep, includes a cement-bottom storage with 120,000 gallons of capacity near a feedlot constructed where an old bank barn once stood.

There are similar projects that have already been installed on local farms. One Marion Township farm completed construction on this concrete-lined manure impoundment structure, installed in the spring of last year, inspected by Kim Fies of the Berks conservation district. The poured wall storage structure contains 8-inch thick by 8-feet long forms arranged in a rectangular shape, to a depth of about 8 feet.



In February 1996, about 1,400 feet of stream bank fencing was installed to stabilize the streambed near were cattle graze. A portion of the fencing is cut into a "V" shape to allow cattle limited access to the water. Richard Troutman stands at the point of the V-shape. The system includes double-wire, high-tensile, Australian-type fence.

Another, also an earthen bank with cement floor built about 20 years ago measuring 12 feet deep, includes six-month storage at a capacity approaching 400,000 gallons.

With stream bank protection, herd health has improved, according to Troutman. Hoof health and somatic cell counts have become more manageable.

The Land O'Lakes cooperator herd average is 20,000 pounds.

Kim Fies noted that "all practices must be part of a conservation plan to be developed along with whatever systems the landowner wants." On June 6, the local districts asked for $200,000 in funding to be released for the program.

There are similar projects that have already been installed on local farms. One Marion Township farm completed construction on a concrete-lined manure impoundment structure, installed in the spring of last year. The poured wall storage structure contains 8-inch thick by 8-feet long forms arranged in a rectangular shape, to a depth of about 8 feet. The tank itself measures 60 feet long by 16 feed wide. The manure, scraped into the structure from a feedlot, can be agitated and pumped out. The structure took about two weeks to complete.

On the Tulpa-Canal farm owned by Floyd and Janice Martin and family near Womelsdorf, a crossing over the Tulpehocken was installed, together with stream bank fencing. Another nearby farm contains a concrete agricultural crossing structure installed over a stream, also with bank protection.

The project will provide land-

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