

Dugout Workshop
October 18, 2018
By: Brian Harcourt

Put on by PCBFA, at Royal Canadian Legion hall.

Speaker Dan Benson, AB Ag +F.
Irrigation + Farm Water Branch.

Siting--your dugout should be in an area that will drain the surrounding lands or near a water course and the in-flow can be controlled.

Dugouts must meet federal , provincial and municipal requirements, setbacks, approvals and H2O licenses etc.

Avoid pitfalls, good location trumps convenience.

Consider safety and wetlands can be a major problem.

The surrounding land should be tested for permeability.

Avoid water from sources of contamination like implement sheds and parking areas for farm equipment. Grasses waterways and vegetation strips make very good filters. Consider a time of drought could you depend on your H2O sources.

Sizing--the appropriate volume and reliability of sources are very important. A deeper dugout will save

A deeper dugout will save more H2O with 1.5: slopes and will help with H2O quality and long and narrow will be easier to clean.

Consider 2 smaller dugouts rather than a huge one.

Control gates may be needed on some sites.

Once the dugout is filled to capacity an operated system is required. A reliable float assembly controlling the depth of the foot valve (2 to 3 feet below the surface) at the end of 1 1/4" polypipe into your home and the pressure system to wherever h2O is needed.

an aeration system will be needed, usually an "airstone" placed on or near the bottom works well if placed in a 5 gallon plastic pail so as not to disturb the mud at the bottom. The airstone will make the water circulate, that feature is very important!!!

It is recommended that there should no trees at all around the

VSI Annual General Meeting

November 9, 2018

Peace River Legion

By: Brian Harcourt

Chairman Terry Ungarian called meeting to order 10:00 am.

Introductions all around, 1 addition to agenda.

Mgr gave his report and a few minor points was discussed. Drs Lowe and Guglich were nominated for Vet Directors. Discussed a few points of the 2018 schedule . 2019 schedule will be increased by 3.3%.

VCPR...Vet client patient relationship..Vet must approve all prescriptions. Code 9 discussed..no action taken. Code 22--LDA--standing verses rolling approach, leave to the vet. Code 55..Price confirmation must include IV.

Vets to attend the meetings...only one showed up.

Rick will reach out to them perhaps a little monetary help is needed, tough for them to give up a day at their clinic plus pay for the mileage.

Board of Directors was uneventful.

Presidents Honorarium remains at \$750.00.

Preident and vice president remain the same.

Managers review--added \$75.00 to it for a smarter phone.

Next meeting..Nov. 8..2019.

Ag in Motion 2018

MacKay Ross



Picture from a half mile east of Ag In Motion, which covered a quarter section, I could see it from Langham 4.5 miles away where I stayed. Parking covered most of another. There was almost too much to see. One tent and a band stand were set up for speakers which ran from 9-5 all 3 days. 3 tents full of typical sized tradeshow booths. It took me all the first day and even some of the second to walk past it all and figure out where everything was. \$20 admission gets you all 3 days. 4 to 6x the tradeshow of anything else I have ever attended.



Driving demos included tire company LSW, Dodge Ram, Mack tandem axle grain truck with auto transmission, high clearance sprayers (I could have easily missed others). One VR unit (I don't recall what the farm vehicle was)

6 high clearance sprayers available.



11 tillage tools and 9 airseeders, plus a rototiller on a 535 Versatile.

DOT a sister company of Seedmaster,

Had a unit which unveiled last year and returned again with a Seedmaster 30' drill, as well as a 100' Connect sprayer.

Estimates are \$200,000 per DOT unit, implements are estimated to be 20% less than current models, due to less frame and no tires.







DOT making the transition from drill to sprayer.

A farm would use the number of currently owned combines to figure out how many DOTs would be required. 1:1







Grain bag with available aeration was innovative.

An extractor that bales as it empties was demoed several times each day.





Fantastic ability to see the inner workings of the equipment, in these 2 instances, combines.





Silage packer made out of recycled Rail car wheels.

Self tensioning sheep fence tool, barb wire can be used on the same unit.





Front of a Robotic feed pusher for barns.



Completed pass.



Competitors unit, the white drum(with red brush on the bottom) spins to push feed back to animals.

Natural process erosion control, with Craig Sponholtz @ Watershedartisan.com

By: MacKay Ross

A water channel system has 4 jobs; transport runoff, transport sediment, store moisture, transform energy.

Anything that decreases the surface area of flowing water increases velocity and therefore erosion. The results are exponential; doubling (2x) the water velocity, quadruples (4x) the size of particle the water energy will move. Sheet flow (large area) can be clear =no erosion, however if it flow quickly enough it will move soil and become dirty, which is called sheet erosion.

Transitions from sheet flow to "rill" flow (any collection and increased velocity) always erode. Any gulley over 2m deep will be extremely difficult/expensive to fix, but can be stabilized.

Rivers build themselves, you can't control up stream or downstream, so control of your portion is limited, acknowledge and accept that. There is still lots that can be done and it will benefit you and downstream as well.

Goals are to;

Expand and protect moisture storage in the land.

Stabilize erosion and prevent expansion.

Restore dispersed flow and increase infiltration.

Cultivate regenerative plant communities to build soil.

Create site specific solutions using natural forms and processes.

Recommended; Cows and fish info, Author Luna Leopold, and the book "Let the Water do the Work" by Bill Zeedyk and Van Clothier.

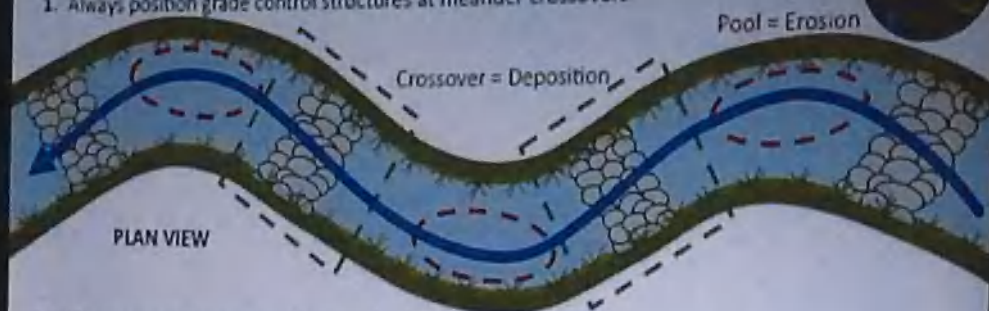
Don't concentrate on changing the gradient in the stream, just make it wider which slows it down and stops erosion. This will invariably involve some meander (S shape) of the stream.

If rocks are not readily available, the use of logs in building "one rock dam" must be with stream flow not across.

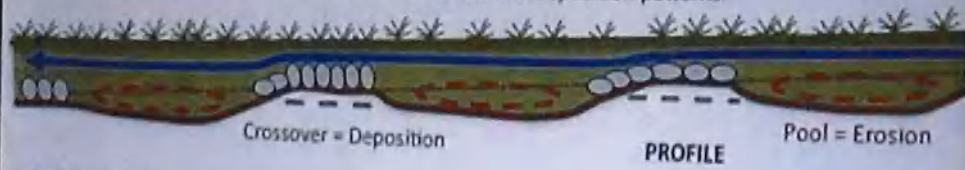
Google earth pro is free, tells you size of area you pin. Allows estimation of volume of water stream must accommodate.

ONE ROCK DAM

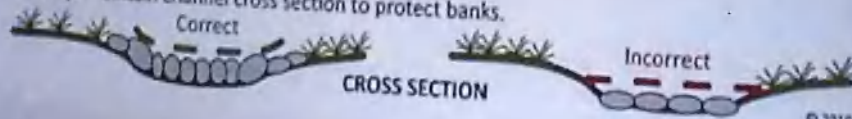
1. Always position grade control structures at meander crossovers.



2. Placement at crossovers maintains natural erosion and deposition patterns.



3. Always maintain channel cross section to protect banks.



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Septic Sense workshop hosted by Northwest Peace Community Adult Learning Council

Grey water has very limited use, understand the possible uses.

Brag creek area has lots of sewer fields in their aquifer :0

There is a construction Code for "outhouse", it is under the municipal affairs private sewage code "privy" is their name for outhouse.

Cleaners (laundry, dish, surface) with surfactants plug up fields/mounds be "green" when purchasing or making cleaners.

Pump out or "at grade" (above ground field covered with wood chips) are the 2 sensible options in our area. Pump out being the least expensive but requires 10 acres of land in a square with the pump out dead center.

Do not buy a septic tank before the plan for your system is set.

Ensure septic alarm is not on the same breaker as the septic pump.

HE furnace drain water is extremely acidic and kills the bacteria in the septic tank. It is a small amount "dry well" or outside discharge to dispose of it. Water Softener discharge etc. same treatment.

Kleenex or 3 ply toilet paper will clog the pump eventually, "flushable" never is flushable.

Garburators result in a 30% increase in sizing a system.

Do not clean paint brushes etc. in the house sink, clean outside or buy new.

(X) Long stick/rod with tube sock on the end, dip solids side of septic tank, 18" of sludge, pump out. (X)

Make sure surface water can't enter lids on septic tank, 6" above ground level.

Records on the septic system and other parts of the house have value at resale.

Dye test toilets, dump food colouring in the tank, wait and see if it appears in bowl. Check every 6 months.

Add half cup of vegetable oil to plumbing trap to prevent sewer gas from venting inside house.

Do laundry on a regular basis not once a week.