REDUCING BACTERIA WITH BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR LIVESTOCK

STREAM CROSSING
NRCS CODE 578

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Description:
A stabilized area or structure constructed across a stream to provide a travel way for people, livestock, equipment, or vehicles.

Benefits to Producer:
- Reduces herd health risks associated with livestock standing in muddy areas, such as foot disease and injuries due to unstable footing.
- Improves water quality by reducing sediment, nutrient, bacterial, organic, and inorganic loading to the stream.
- Decreases herd injuries associated with cattle climbing steep and unstable stream banks.
- Provides livestock access to all pastures.
- Discourages cattle from congregating or wallowing in the stream.

Bacterial Removal Efficiency:
- Stream crossings resulted in the following bacterial reductions based on scientific research:
  - *E. coli*: 46% when combined with other practices.
  - Fecal coliform: 44%-52% when combined with other practices.
  - Fecal streptococci: 46%-76% when combined with other practices.

Other Benefits:
- When combined with other practices, decreased total phosphorus, total nitrogen, and total suspended solid concentrations by 18-25%.
- Reduced baseflow phosphorus levels by as much as 38%.
- When combined with other practices, reduced nitrate nitrogen concentrations by 35% and particulate phosphorus concentrations by 78%.

Estimated Installation Costs:
- $60.88/cubic yard to $325.00/cubic yard depending on material used for crossing (rock or concrete).
- Cost information obtained from the Texas NRCS Electronic Field Office Technical Guide for Zone 4; costs may vary for other zones.

Practice Life Span:
- 20 years

Available Cost-Share Programs:
- EQIP (up to 75%)

For More Information:
- Contact your local County Extension Agent, Soil and Water Conservation District (http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/swcds) or the Natural Resources Conservation Service (http://www.usda.nrcs).

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