

Livestock Exclusion Fencing

Livestock Exclusion Fencing is a best management practice that requires livestock to be fenced out of sensitive areas such as streams, woodlands, or other critical areas not intended for grazing. Allowing livestock to have access to these areas can have a detrimental impact on water quality, timber value and wildlife habitat.

By restricting access to these areas, you can reduce the amount of erosion on streambanks and sedimentation in the stream, minimize nutrient runoff and potential pollution contamination, improve the health of our forests, eliminate risked injury to the herd, and increase water quality.

Fun Fact: Cattle do not like soft creek bottoms; they prefer solid footing. When good rock bottom crossings are constructed, they will travel on that and rarely stray off.

Manure contaminated runoff is a violation of Ohio Administrative Code 901:13-1 – *Animal Waste and Agricultural Pollution*. There are penalties for violation of contamination to Waters of the State when pollution complaints are filed. If sediment from soil erosion and/or manure enters Waters of the State, then we investigate under these Ag. Pollution Abatement Rules. They are outlined on the Ohio Department of Agriculture's website www.agri.ohio.gov under Soil and Water Conservation, Agricultural Pollution which explains in detail the laws concerning pollution. We have seen fines in this county reach as high as \$7,000 and can be up to \$10,000 per incident. In addition, if a fish kill event occurs and is caused by pollution, the Ohio Division of Wildlife will investigate, determine the source location, and recoup fines for the resulting loss from the landowner/operator.

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides funding cost-share to install exclusion practices on your property through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) including exclusion fence as well as an additional water source if needed.

EQIP is a competitive program where all applications in the county are ranked and the highest scoring projects receive funding. It is not a guarantee to get approved. Applications are taken throughout the year. NRCS announces the deadlines for them when the next funding round is available. Contact NRCS District Conservationist Dave Libben to inquire how you can apply at 740-415-3921 if interested or to get more information.

