



Do You Have Problems With:

- Livestock knee deep in mud
- Crossing a stream with equipment
- Eroded stream banks
- Cattle loafing in streams and polluting the water
- Equipment damaged crossing streams

A Stream Crossing Can Help

A stream crossing provides a hard, stable area where cattle or equipment can cross a stream without damaging the streambed or banks.



Stream crossings can be a muddy mess

Benefits of a Stream Crossing:

- Provide livestock access to all your pastures
- Crop and graze fields that are difficult to get to
- Improve cattle health by keeping them out of the mud
- Keep your farm water cleaner by keeping cattle out of stream
- You decide where the cattle cross the stream



Hog panel stream crossing

Costs for a Stream Crossing:

The costs for a stream crossing will be different depending on what you use to build it and how large the stream is. Some of the costs to think about are:

- Grading the stream banks and bottom
- Gravel and filter fabric
- Hog panels, stone or other material to go in the bed of the stream
- Fencing to lead the livestock to the crossing

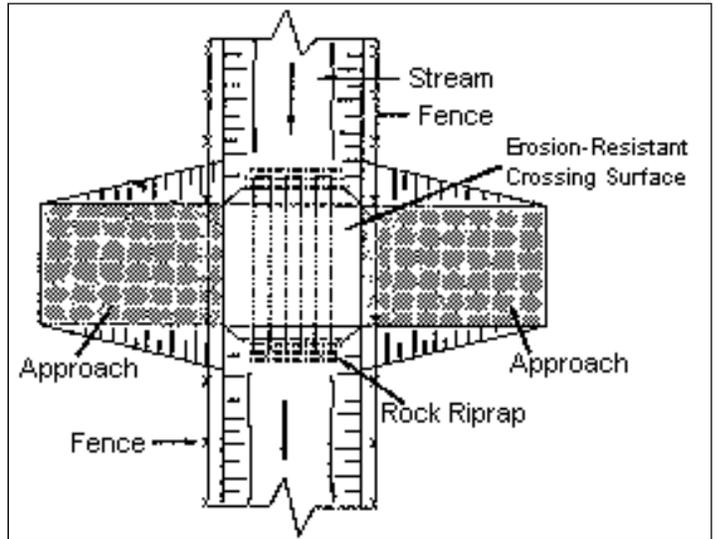
Stream Crossing

How do I build a stream crossing?

Stream crossings can be built in several different ways using different materials. The main things that need to be done are to slope the banks of the stream on each side and provide a firm streambed.

- Make banks flat enough for livestock or equipment to move safely down the bank.
- Protect banks with gravel laid over filter fabric.
- Make the streambed firm enough for cows to walk across or equipment to cross without causing ruts.
- For gravel or bedrock streams, no work may need to be done on the streambed.

The simplest type of streambed protection is to lay rock over filter fabric. However, cows don't like to walk on large rock and smaller rock can wash out during high flows.



Typical stream crossing

For both the hog panels and the Geoweb® it is very important to keep the material placed in the streambed below the level of the streambed. This will help prevent the material from being washed out during high flows.



Stream crossing under construction

For mud bottom streams, there are several options. Hog slats (precast concrete units used in confined hog housing) laid over a bed of filter fabric and gravel makes a very good crossing.

A Geoweb® is a plastic web that can be filled with gravel. A Geoweb® filled with gravel, and laid over filter fabric makes a very good stream crossing.



Hog panel stream crossing



Geoweb®, Presto Products Co

Stream Crossing

Fencing

If the stream crossing will be used by livestock, an important part of the practice is to fence the stream so that livestock use the crossing and stay out of the stream.

How to maintain the Stream Crossing

If the stream crossing is installed correctly, very little maintenance should be needed.

- Check the crossing after storms and make sure streambed and banks haven't eroded
- Repair eroded areas
- If livestock use the crossing make sure that fences are still in place



Fencing to protect the stream

You put in a stream crossing because you want to get to the other side, but

- The real benefit of a stream crossing is to keep the water in the stream clean
- Cows will not tear up the stream banks
- Less manure will get into the stream
- Equipment will not tear up the stream bed and banks when you cross
- Trees and grass will grow along the stream and keep the water cooler and cleaner

CONSERVATION SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR PENNSYLVANIA FARM

Technical Help Is Available

Your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office has experienced conservationists that can assist you with soil testing and interpreting soil tests. They can also help you develop a Conservation Plan to solve other problems you have identified on your farm.

There is no charge for our assistance. Simply call your local office at the number listed below to set up an appointment and we will come to your farm.

You may also be eligible to receive financial assistance, through a state or federal program. Your NRCS office will explain any programs that are available so you can make the best decision for your operation. All NRCS programs and services are voluntary.



Helping People—Help the Land

NRCS FIELD OFFICES:

Adams: 717-334-2317 ext 3
Allegheny: 717-482-4800 ext 3
Armstrong: 724-545-1022 ext 3
Beaver: 724-482-4800 ext 3
Bedford: 814-623-7900 ext 3
Berks: 610-372-4655 ext 3
Blair: 814-695-6291 ext 3
Bradford: 570-265-6969 ext 3
Bucks: 215-453-9527 ext 3
Butler: 724-482-4800 ext 3
Cambria: 814-472-5502 ext 3
Cameron: 814-375-2125 ext 3
Carbon: 610-625-8392 ext 3
Centre: 570-726-3196 ext 3
Chester: 610-696-0398 ext 3
Clarion: 814-226-8160 ext 3
Clearfield: 814-375-2125 ext 3
Clinton: 570-726-3196 ext 3
Columbia: 570-784-1062 ext 3
Crawford: 814-724-1852 ext 3
Cumberland: 717-249-1037 ext 3

Dauphin: 717-921-2380 ext 3
Delaware: 610-696-0398 ext 3
Elk: 814-375-2125 ext 3
Erie: 814-796-6760 ext 3
Fayette: 724-437-7971 ext 3
Forest: 814-226-8160 ext 3
Franklin: 717-264-8074 ext 3
Fulton: 717-485-3812 ext 3
Greene: 724-627-5821
Huntingdon: 814-627-1626 ext 3
Indiana: 727-463-8547 ext 3
Jefferson: 814-375-2125 ext 3
Juniata: 717-436-8953 ext 3
Lackawanna: 570-282-8732 ext 3
Lancaster: 717-299-5361 ext 3
Lawrence: 724-652-5811
Lebanon: 717-272-3908 ext 3
Lehigh: 610-625-8392 ext 3
Luzerne: 570-799-0645 ext 3
Lycoming: 570-433-3902 ext 3
McKean: 814-274-8166 ext 3
Mercer: 724-662-3740 ext 3
Mifflin: 717-248-9541 ext 3

Monroe: 610-625-8392 ext 3
Montgomery: 610-372-4655 ext 3
Northampton: 610-625-8392 ext 3
Northumberland: 570-286-7114 ext 3
Perry: 717-582-4144 ext 3
Pike: 570-282-8732 ext 3
Potter: 814-274-8166 ext 3
Schuylkill: 570-622-1312 ext 3
Snyder: 570-837-0007 ext 3
Somerset: 814-445-6876 ext 3
Sullivan: 570-836-2490 ext 3
Susquehanna: 570-278-1011 ext 3
Tioga: 570-724-1726 ext 3
Union: 570-523-3280
Warren: 814-563-3125
Washington: 724-222-3060 ext 3
Wayne: 570-282-8732 ext 3
Westmoreland: 724-834-3970 ext 3
Wyoming: 570-836-2490 ext 3
Venago: 814-437-2473 ext 3
York: 717-755-2966 ext 3