

Grant County Conservation District

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Board Chair: John Preston



State Legislative District #9, 12, 13
Congressional District #4

2015 Feature Accomplishment:

Youngren dairy waste management system

RESOURCE CHALLENGE The Youngren project was the number one resource concern for Grant County Conservation District (GCCD). After the dairy was purchased, we soon realized the lagoon used to store liquid manure would be too small for the projected herd size. A lagoon without adequate capacity fills up too fast, forcing applications or even overtopping during the non-growing season. There didn't appear to be any engineering oversight during original construction, and the district felt the lagoon could contaminate groundwater because it was built on porous soils without a liner.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS The GCCD worked with the dairy, engineers, liner providers, and construction companies to ensure this project was completed per required specifications and procedures. The dairy contributed a lot of money to complete the waste management system, which cost much more than the lagoon and liner. Joe Youngren has handed over operation of the dairy to his children who have strong conservation goals and visions. With safe liquids storage, separation, and composting in place, the dairy was able to sign agreements with a local farmer who plans to apply the nutrients for several years.

KEY PARTNERS: Washington State Conservation Commission; Orange Dairy Service; Torrence Engineering; NW Linings Inc.



"Before" picture showing the area where the lagoon would go. A leaky transfer hose and muddy conditions were normal before the project. Credit: Lyle Stoltman



Installation completed. Not pictured is all the concrete, pumps, and other appurtenances that were essential to make the system work properly. Credit: Lyle Stoltman

Other Accomplishments

- Irrigated windbreak with pollinator plants at large composting facility
- Waste transfer structure at organic dairy
- Waste transfer and storage improvements at goat dairy
- Rotational grazing improvements at beef ranch
- Lined lagoon and waste system improvements at hog farm
- Buried mainline and sprinkler improvements at seed farm
- Waste storage slab at large egg facility
- Erosion control plan and tree planting on Smyrna Bench
- Irrigation water system improvements at feedlot
- Heavy use concrete slab at dairy
- Manure separation improvements at dairy
- Manure utilization improvements at five dairies
- Drip irrigation and cover crop at small farm

More Work to Do!

- Moses Lake shoreline protection project
- Lined lagoon at dairy
- Rotational grazing fencing at four farms
- Pivot to drip irrigation conversion at vineyard
- Orchard erosion control project
- Polyacrylamide (PAM) applications on irrigated farm
- Facilitate annual Sustainability Conference
- Develop and update nutrient management plans for dairies and feedlots
- Plan and coordinate annual Othello Sandhill Crane Festival