



South Yakima Conservation District

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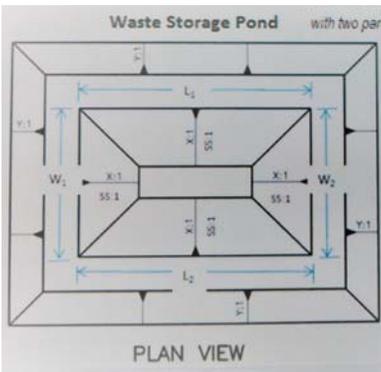
Other Accomplishments



Salmon in the Classroom, Water on Wheels, Wheat Week, and JR Drain Rangers K-12 programming reached 4,243 students from six schools for 2017-18. Photo by Rodney Heit



The Voluntary Stewardship Program for Yakima County was approved. We have started to implement the work plan within our boundaries.



SYCD is assisting the USDA Dairy Nutrient Management Program with entering information into their database using the NRCS Tech Note 23 pond assessment tool.

2018 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

Piloting Methods to Test Potential Nitrate Seepage

Resource Challenge

Groundwater is the primary source of drinking water for most rural county residents. Once groundwater is contaminated, it's difficult and costly to clean up. There are many potential sources of nitrates, including onsite sewage systems, poor farming practices, waste storage ponds, natural causes, and legacy nitrates.

Project Summary and Results

South Yakima Conservation District (SYCD) worked with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to conduct testing on a dairy waste storage pond lined with a 40 mil HDPE liner using a Delta Probe Seepage Meter System to determine potential nitrate seepage. To get the best results, the pond needed to be as full as possible, have zero inflow and outflow for a period of eight hours, and be accessible by truck and trailer. After initial collection and evaluation of data, NRCS determined that more research is necessary for consistent application of the tool.

Key Partners

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



Larry Johnson, NRCS State Engineer giving a final check of the Delta Probe Seepage Meter System to begin recording data.

Photo by Rodney Heit

Priorities for 2019...

- ▶ Continue to provide outreach and education to dairy operators and local growers on the importance of soil health testing, nutrient management, irrigation water management, soil moisture monitoring.
- ▶ Provide cost share to smaller acreage landowners interested in upgrading to more efficient irrigation systems.
- ▶ Once completed, implement Groundwater Management Area recommendations to reduce nitrates in the groundwater.