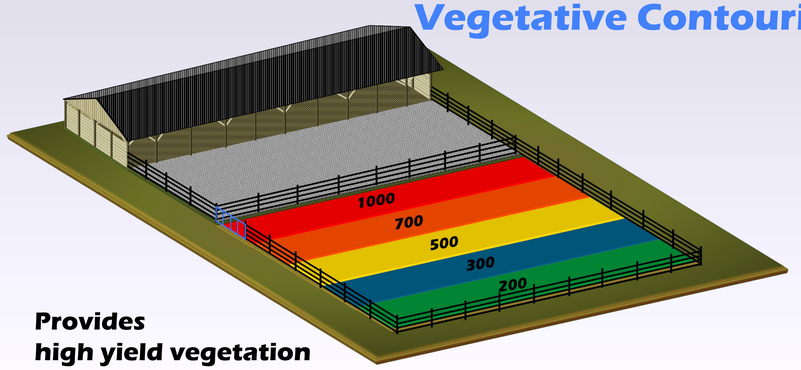
Eden Shale Farm - Renovating with BMPs

Steve Higgins – Director of Environmental and Animal Compliance

Filter Strips & Vegetative Contouring

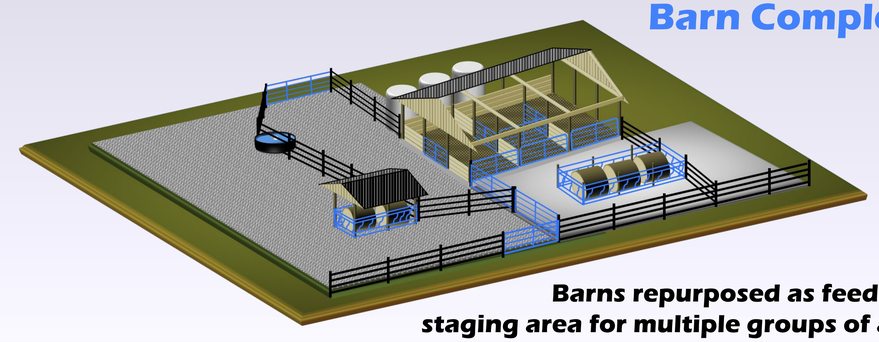


Provides high yield vegetation increasing infiltration and utilizing nutrients in runoff. Used as a creep feeding area.

Challenges: Clay soils with low organic matter and a restrictive layer. The soils are sticky and slightly plastic. The topography is flat ridges with steep slopes that are prone to rapid runoff, low infiltration, and are severely eroded.

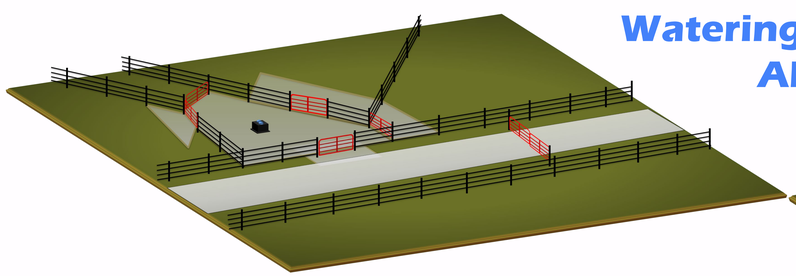
Solution: Implement BMPs to create a systems approach.

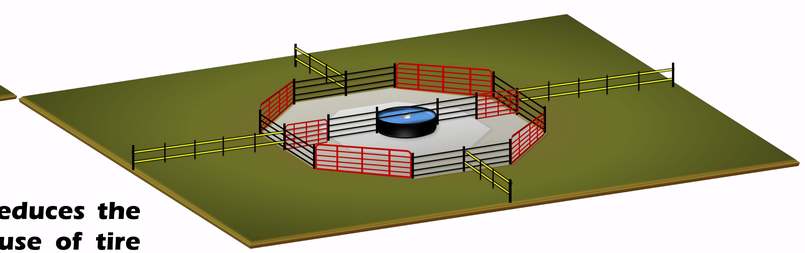
Maternity & Bull Barn Complexes



Barns repurposed as feeding and staging area for multiple groups of animals (close-up cows, maternity, nursery, creep feeding, and cow-calf pairs). Uses all-weather surfaces, stormwater diversion, water harvesting, filter strips, while providing feed and watering facilities for all groups of animals.

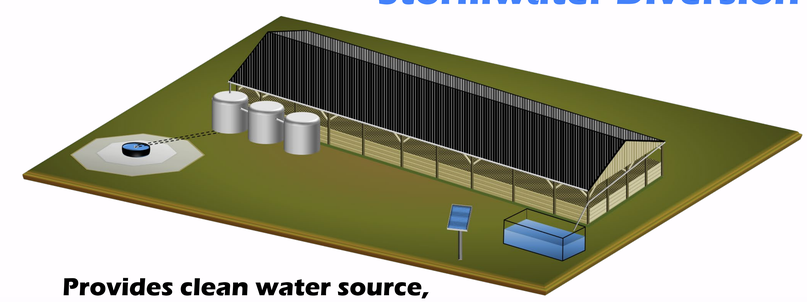
Watering Points using All-Weather Surfaces





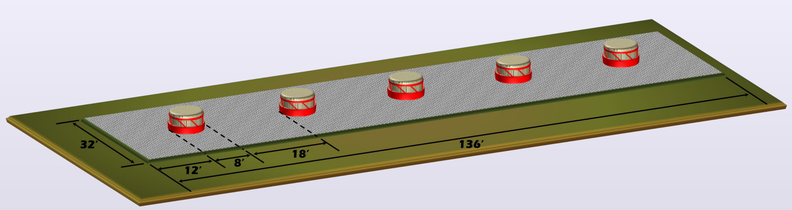
Serves multiple pastures, facilitates rotational grazing, reduces the creation of mud, and doubles as a feeding area. The use of tire waterers increases the surface area and allow multiple animals to obtain water at the same time.

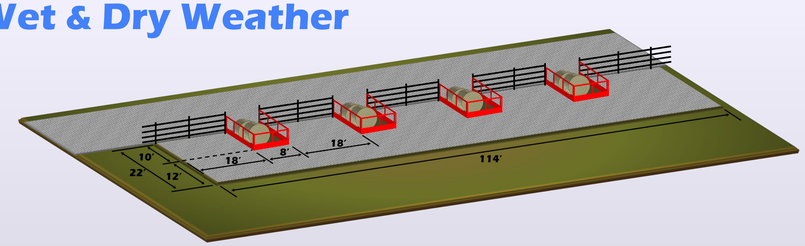
Water Harvesting & Stormwater Diversion

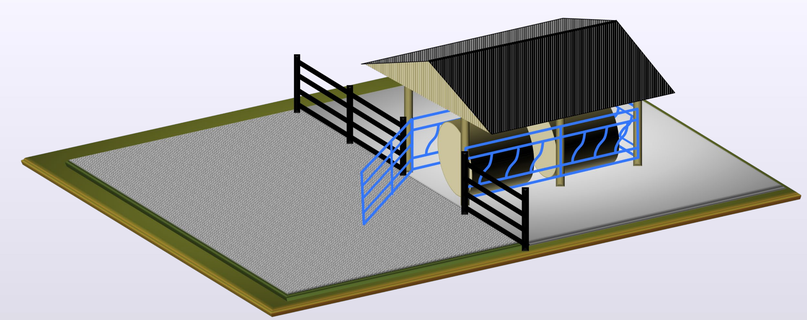


Provides clean water source, reduces reliance on city water, and reduces erosion.

Controlled Traffic During Extreme Wet & Dry Weather







All-weather surfaces are used for winter-feeding and drought management (in-field and fence-line type). A roofed type structure is used for longer storage and feeding of forages.

This work was funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under §319(h) of the Clean Water Act.