

Pond Creek.

Watershed

News for Watershed Residents

Produced by UT Extension (865-974-7266)



Before and after images of BMP impacts over two years.





Progress Reports and Updates

As many of you now know, several agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been implemented in Pond Creek watershed over the last few years, at little expense. These relatively simple tasks have resulted in noticeable and positive changes in local land and water quality. For example, the installation of one watering system on A.J. Smith's property reduced the area of idle loafing land and increased beneficial vegetation around the nearby stream.

The impacts of these BMPs not only improved the visual quality of the land, but also improved the health of the creek. TVA recently conducted an assessment of the local fish population and found a remarkable improvement over the past five years. Since 2001, the variety of fish increased 30%, and the total count had doubled! This success, along with other observations, improved the rating of this site from fair/poor to fair.

We are headed in the right direction thanks to your efforts!

Location	Sample Date	Observed	Fish	Rating
Bradshaw Hollow Rd	Mar-2001	13	214	Poor/Fair
	Feb-2006	17	718	Fair

The completion of a Watershed Restoration Plan is nearly complete and will soon be submitted to TN Dept. of Agriculture to leverage funding to support the proposed list of BMPs. The two main goals are:

1) Improve and protect the water quality of Pond Creek and its tributaries by reducing the amount of sediment entering the system.

2) Provide for the protection of watershed residents, livestock and wildlife by reducing the amounts of nutrients, sediments and bacteria entering the waterway.

Tips for Maintaining Your Septic System

- Make a diagram showing the location of your tank drainfield and repair area.
- Periodically have the solids pumped out of the septic tank. Frequency for pumping a septic tank depends on its size, use (number of people), and operating condition.
- Maintain adequate vegetative cover over the drainfield.
- Keep surface waters away from the tank and drainfield.
- Keep automobiles and heavy equipment off the system.
- Do not plan any building additions, driveways, or other construction work near the septic system or the repair area.

A few dollars spent every one to three years on proper pumping is much less expensive and easier to plan for than an unexpected \$2,000 to \$10,000 repair bill!

Make a Difference

Listed below are a few tips that we, as individuals, can do to help protect our rivers and streams.



Image courtesy of WaterWorks!

Estimating Water Use For the Farm and Home

This table lists average water use values for home and agriculture. Your actual water use may vary significantly from these averages, depending on personal usages and appliance condition.

Livestock water consumption depends on animal size and diet, milk production, and daytime temperatures.

Is your herd getting enough water?

Home Water Use				
Dishwasher	7 gal per load			
Clothes washer	35 gal per load			
Kitchen sink	3 gal per minute			
Shower or tub	5 gal per minute			
Outside hose (1/2 inch)	5 gal per minute			
Farm Animal Water Use (gal per animal per day)				
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Farm Animal Water Use (gal Milking cows	per animal per day) 35 to 50+			
Farm Animal Water Use (gal Milking cows Dry cow, beef cattle	per animal per day) 35 to 50+ 12			
Farm Animal Water Use (gal Milking cows Dry cow, beef cattle Heifers	per animal per day) 35 to 50+ 12 8 to 15			
Farm Animal Water Use (gal Milking cows Dry cow, beef cattle Heifers Horses or ponies	per animal per day) 35 to 50+ 12 8 to 15 12			



Did you know?

If properly installed and maintained, a five foot wide vegetative buffer along a waterway can remove up to 75% of sediment, and 99% of bacteria and parasites.

Six Ways to Prevent Streambank Erosion

- Keep vehicles and equipment out of the stream and off the banks whenever possible
- Keep native trees and plants along streambanks
- Remove large woody debris from the stream channel
- Allow your stream to establish a natural path and slope whenever possible
- To repair eroding banks, obtain the proper permits and use natural materials
- Provide controlled access of livestock to the stream



These small steps can keep a small problem from becoming a big problem.

Page 4 Weed ID: A. horseweed, B. crabgrass, C. pokeweed, D. buttercup

Have You Seen Me?



Pasture weeds restrict grazing, reduce forage yields and simply don't look very pretty in a green field. When these weeds show up, grass and ultimately livestock production suffers. During these dry summer months, be sure to read herbicide labels to control these weeds.

Can you identify the common weeds above? (answers are on page 3)

For questions or comments on any of the topics mentioned in this newsletter, contact: UT Extension: Knoxville office— 865-974-7266; Athens office— 423-745-2852

Also check out a new website dedicated to Pond Creek watershed restoration at:

http://pondcreek.ag.utk.edu



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