



**Soil & Water
Conservation District**

UMPQUA

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2285 Longwood Drive, Reedsport, OR 97467 Office (541) 662-1341 Toll Free 888-331-4348

umpqua.swcd@oacd.org

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Fencing Streams

By Rhonda Black

*Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation
District Conservation Technician/
District Manager*

Why fence streams and what are the benefits? These are questions many people involved in agriculture ask. There are many good reasons to fence off streams and other areas where water accumulates and, fencing doesn't mean you have to lose acreage.

Fencing keeps livestock out of the stream and riparian areas and this can be a benefit to the livestock owner as young livestock often have a difficult time navigating out of a stream or ditch once they get in that kind of an area. Sometimes, young livestock and even adult livestock are not able to get out. Reducing livestock loss is the first savings to the livestock owner when it comes to fencing.

Another benefit of fencing livestock out of wet areas is that fencing these areas reduces the spread of liver flukes. According to Veterinarians Clell Bagley from Utah State University, Donald Hansen from Oregon State University and Parasitologist Mark Healey from Utah State University "Simple management efforts will control

the liver fluke in small areas of swamps, seeps, ditches, and ponds" and to "consider fencing" livestock out of these wet areas.

Fencing streams and ditches often creates natural cross fencing which benefits the livestock owner by providing areas for rotational grazing. Fencing can be as simple as a portable electric fencing system to a full scale permanent field fence.

Livestock can be watered by providing an off stream watering system or by allowing livestock an area where they can access a small portion of the stream for the purpose of obtaining water.

The end product is the riparian area or stream bank is now protected from livestock and livestock is protected from many of the dangers created by the stream and the riparian areas such as steep slopes. This creates a win-win solution for the livestock owner, livestock, and for fish and wildlife.



A permanent electric fence system installed at a local property.

Funding for fencing is available in the form of grants. According to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds "farmers with pastures next to a coastal stream or wetland may get grant money to add and improve fences".

Contact the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District office today at (541) 662-1341 or email the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District at umpqua.swcd@oacd.org to discuss fencing, water systems and livestock crossings on your property today. You'll be glad you did.

Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District Office Has Moved



The Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District Directors decided to move office locations a short time ago in order to make the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District more assessable to the community. The new office is now located within the Reedsport Coffee House and Bistro which is a great location. The Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District office is located upstairs and down the hall. Rhonda Black, the Conservation Technician and District Manager can meet you either upstairs at

the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District office or downstairs in the Reedsport Coffee House. So, come on in, get yourself something wonderful to drink and have a chat with her. Rhonda is regularly in the office on Mondays from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and several evenings during the week. Please call the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District office at (541) 662-1341 or email her at umpqua.swcd@oacd.org to schedule an appointment with her today.

How Rich is Your Soil

By Rhonda Black

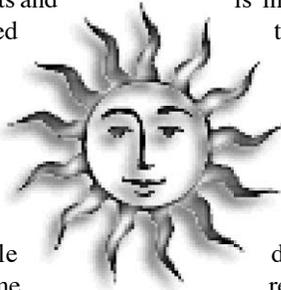
*Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation
District Conservation Technician/
District Manager*

Good soil nutrient content is necessary if you want strong, hearty plants. Correct pH, nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium are needed for healthy, sturdy plants and these nutrients must be applied in the correct amounts.

Nitrogen is necessary to generate healthy stalk, stem, leaf and grass growth, but too much nitrogen creates quick growth, slows seed and flower production while causing plant tissues to become weak. Too little nitrogen creates a sickly plant.

Phosphorous gives plants a good, quick start, intensifies the development of roots, speeds maturation, and helps with flowering and seed creation.

Potassium (potash) expedites root and



tuber development, which is important for root vegetables and tuberous flowers. On the other hand, too much potassium weakens frost and drought resistance and retards ripening.

Finally, correct soil pH is necessary for plants to absorb nutrients. If the pH is incorrect the plant cannot absorb the nutrients and the plant will become weak and die off.

Over application of these nutrients creates run off causing pollution to groundwater. In order to prevent over or under application of nutrients and reduce nutrient run off soil testing is recommended. The Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District provides free soil testing for nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, and pH to District residents. Additional nutrient testing can be provided for a fee through a certified lab. Please call (541) 662-1341 or email umpqua.swcd@oacd.org for an appointment.



FREE Soil Testing!

The Umpqua SWCD offers FREE soil nutrient testing for all residents in Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District area. Each soil sample covers four parameters of testing: Nitrogen, pH, Phosphorous, and Potassium. For an additional fee, certified results can be obtained from a professional lab. Please call 541-662-1341 to make an appointment. One test per household please.

Your Help is Needed!

Noxious Weed and Tide Gate Projects

The Umpqua SWCD is starting two new projects this summer. One will focus on identifying large infestations of noxious weeds and mapping out sites for future eradication efforts. The other project will be locating and monitoring tide gates for proper function. You can help! If you know of, or have any large plots of noxious weeds or are aware of tide gate locations, please contact us at the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District office at (541) 662-1341.

Helping Fish & Wildlife Habitat

By Rhonda Black

Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District Conservation Technician/District Manager

I'm not a farmer, livestock producer or involved in agriculture. What can I do? You can do a lot! For starters, use less commercial fertilizers applying organic fertilizers instead and pull weeds in place of using herbicides. Mulch flowerbeds and gardens using compost which helps retain moisture in the soil and will discourage weed growth.

When watering lawns water to approximately 1" to avoid over watering since over watering leaches nutrients from the soil. To

determine what is 1" of water place a small, shallow can in your yard or purchase an inexpensive watering gauge and when this is full to one inch you will have your lawn's thirst sufficiently quenched. You can also plant native plants.

Contact the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District for more helpful ideas at (541) 662-1341 or email the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District at umpqua.swcd@oacd.org.

We're glad to help!

About the District

The Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District was formed in 1953. The District's boundaries encompass 600,000 acres of northwestern Douglas County and include the communities of Reedsport, Gardiner, Winchester Bay, Smith River, Tahkenitch Lake, Ash Valley, Scottsburg, Elkton and Kellogg.

A seven member Board of Directors elected in the general election serve without pay to administer District activities.

Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors

- George Black – Chair
- King Phelps – Vice Chair
- Tom Black – Secretary/Treasurer
- Ron Brandon
- Paul Dailey
- Bob Sharp

Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. during daylight savings time and 6:00 p.m. during standard time. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend meetings, which are generally held at the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District office, located within the Reedsport Coffee House and Bistro, 2285 Longwood Drive in Reedsport.

SWCD Staff

- Rhonda Black – Conservation Technician/
District Manager

"The mission of the locally led Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide assistance to any individual, group, or agency in applying natural resource conservation practices for the wise use of their natural resources."



Growing Potatoes in Small Areas

You might think you need a large area to grow potatoes, but think again. Potatoes can be grown above ground and several popular choices are available. Potato cages and potato boxes are attractive solutions.

Potato Cage:

A potato cage can be made from a 5' piece of chicken wire that is 3' high. Connect the ends with wire and stand the "cage" upright on the ground. Then line the inside edges with straw in order to keep the dirt that will be placed in the cage from falling out. Fill approximately 1/3 full with soil and plant up to 4 seed potatoes in the center. As the potato grows add more straw for lining and add more dirt. Make sure to water your potato plants. When the plant starts to bloom the tubers in the dirt will be forming. When the plant begins to die it is time to harvest your potatoes.

Potato Box:

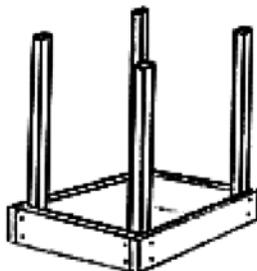
See instructions and materials list at right.

HOW TO BUILD AND USE A POTATO BOX

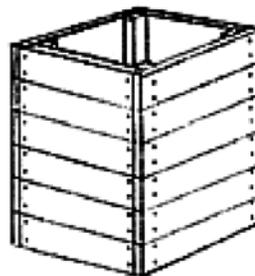
Materials:

Six 2-inch by 6-inch boards eight feet long
 One 2-inch by 2-inch board 12 feet long
 2 1/2-inch wood screws (96 of them)

(You can use pine, cedar or redwood, which will resist rot longer)



1. Cut the 2-by-2 into four lengths of 33 inches.
2. Cut the 2-by-6 boards into 12 lengths of 21 inches, and 12 lengths of 24 inches.
3. Pre-drill the screw holes in the 2-by-6 boards and attach the bottom row on the 2-by-2s.
4. Place over prepared soil and fill with soft soil or mulch, planting potatoes four inches deep.



5. When the vines are about 12 inches above the soil, add another board and fill with dirt, being careful not to cover more than one-third of the plant. Repeat this until the box is completed.



6. To harvest your potatoes, remove the screws from the bottom board and carefully reach in for the potatoes. Replace the soil and boards. Next time you need potatoes, remove the second board and "rob" spuds from that level.

Weed Wrenches Available for Rent



FOR A \$25.00 REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT YOU CAN BORROW A WEED WRENCH FOR UP TO TWO WEEKS.

CALL 541-662-1341 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Concerned about soil erosion on your property?

Contact the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District about stream bank restoration and soil preservation techniques.

(541) 662-1341 or umpqua.swcd@oacd.org.

Strawberries...Mmmm! Great Strawberry Pie

Recipe Provided By Rhonda Black
 Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District
 Conservation Technician/District Manager



Crust:

1 1/4 cups graham cracker crumbs
 1/4 cup granulated sugar
 5 tablespoons melted butter

Mix sugar and graham cracker crumbs together in the bottom of a 9" pie pan. Mix in melted butter and press in bottom and sides of pan. Bake at 375 degrees for 8-10 minutes. Cool.

Filling:

1-8 oz. package of cream cheese
 1/4 cup granulated sugar
 1/4 cup milk or cream
 4 cups (approximate) clean Oregon strawberries

Beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Gradually beat in milk. Spread into bottom and sides of cooled crust. Arrange strawberries on top of cream cheese mixture.

Topping:

Mash enough strawberries to equal 1-cup
 1 cup granulated sugar
 3 tablespoons cornstarch
 1/2 cup water

Mix sugar and 3 tablespoons of cornstarch in a 2-quart saucepan. Gradually stir in water and mashed strawberries. Cook over medium heat, stirring until mixture is thick and bubbling. Cook 2 minutes longer. Cool slightly. Pour over arranged strawberries. Refrigerate until cool and set. Serve topped with fresh whipped cream.

Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District

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Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District Important Contact Information

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Telephone: (541) 662-1341

Fax: (888) 331-4348

Email: umpqua.swcd@oacd.org

Website Coming Soon! umpquasoilandwater.com

How to Find Us:

If going north on Highway 101 take the first right onto Longwood Drive just as you enter Reedsport. For reference, the Reedsport High School will be across the street. Then turn right into the Reedsport Coffee House and Bistro parking lot. Come on inside and visit us at the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District office.

If going south on Highway 101 drive through the last stoplight in Reedsport. Turn into the last turning lane and turn left onto Longwood Drive. Then turn right into the Reedsport Coffee House and Bistro parking lot. Visit us upstairs at the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District office.

MEETINGS IN THE AREA

Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District

Meets every 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM during daylight savings time and 6:00 PM during standard time. Generally held at the Reedsport Coffee House and Bistro, 2285 Longwood Drive in Reedsport and occasionally held at the Elkton Community Education Center, 15850 Highway 38 West in Elkton. Contact Rhonda Black for information at (541) 662-1341 or email umpqua.swcd@oacd.org.

Smith River Watershed Council

Meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. Held at the Smith River Grange Hall, milepost #9 on Smith River Road. Contact Troy Turney for information at (541) 271-2223 or email smithriver@toast.net.

Gardiner/Reedsport/Winchester Bay Salmon Trout Enhancement Program

Meets the 3rd Friday of each month at 5:00 PM. Held at the Gardiner hatchery at 76919 US Highway 101 North. Contact Frank Paula at (541) 271-0626.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

"To be a respected, valued community organization committed to managing the natural resources base for future generations. To ensure sustainable agricultural and forest production, supporting functioning human, wildlife, fish and forest habitat."

