



WORKING WITH THE FARMING COMMUNITY

Lewis County Conservation District

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM



Before-Lincoln Creek

2016- FENCING OUT CATTLE AND PLANTING TREES





CREP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 70 total contracts currently
- 819.54 acres enrolled
- 50.9 miles of streams protected
- Constructed 13.1 of livestock exclusion fencing
- A total of \$222,342.63 of rental rates is paid each year



IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT

- Currently working with 15 farms to improve irrigation practices
- Have had four educational meetings and plan on having one more in the fall.
- Farmers are being trained on how to use moisture meters to water properly.
- Due to the drought many farmers instituted conservation measures on their own even though they were not required to.
- Have applied for a grant to obtain fish screens for 10 farmers. Also, included purchasing K_Lines for a demonstration project.

LEAKS ARE A MAJOR PROBLEM





IRRIGATION LESSONS LEARNED

- Little irrigation education has been completed in the Chehalis Basin.
- Feedback from farmers has been positive. Many have said they weren't quite sure when to irrigate previously.
- Challenge-The Chehalis Basin is not a focus area for irrigation so cost share programs have been difficult to find.
- Underground mainlines are the item that farmers have requested cost share on the most. Installing them would eliminate a major source of leaks.
- Maintenance is lacking on some farms. New gaskets are expensive and nozzles wear out (We found some that were over 40 years old).

FARM NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING

- Dairies are required by law to have farm plans. Currently have 32 dairies. Many are transitioning to organic.
- Chicken farms are not required by law but most of them have plans.
- Lots of interest from small and beginning farmers.
- Just hired an additional farm planner.
- Cost Share- Underground Outlet funded 2016. Will prevent animals from contaminating a ditch.
- Cost Share-29 waiting for funding.

OVERGRAZED FIELD-RECOMMENDED ROTATIONAL GRAZING USING TEMPORARY FENCES





CRM MEETING-NEWAUKUM

- Working with landowners on a watershed basis to do self directed conservation.
- Over 100 residents attended the first meeting, 31 signed up for site visits, 7 people signed up for CREP, and 1 person signed up for a farm plan.
- Erosion has been identified as the most pressing concern in the South Fork and North Fork Newaukum Rivers.



QUESTIONS?