Agriculture

T. Frescura Grazing System Project

Location: Unity Township

Date of Installation: Fall 2025

Design Features Completed: Animal Walkway, Conveyor Belt Diversions, and Electric High Tensile Fence

Cost: $125,294 of Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) funds, $24,810 of Natural Resources Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds, and $17,300 landowner match contributions, for a total project cost of $167,404.

Client: Frescura Farm

Project Partners: Westmoreland Conservation District, State Conservation Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, New Foundation Contractors, Inc.

Stabilized Animal Walkway with Conveyor Belt Diversion Installation

Project Contact: Chelsea Gross, chelseag@wcdpa.com, and Allie Shreffler, allie@wcdpa.com

Project Specifications/Benefits

Approximately 12,000 square feet of animal walkway was improved with the additions of fill to reduce the walkway entrenchment and stabilized with layers of stone. An additional 12,000 square feet of walkway was improved by grading with additional fill placement to prevent entrenchment, then topsoiled and stabilized with vegetation. The entire length of the walkway was graded to ~4% cross slope to encourage stormwater to sheet flow across the width. Additionally, four conveyor belt diversions were installed along the walkway. The conveyor belt diversions reduce the slope length along the walkway and direct water away from the surface before it increases in velocity and causes erosion. Approximately 8,628 linear feet of electric high tensile fencing was installed to help rotate the cattle through the rotational grazing system. Best management practices (BMPs) were imperative to reduce the accelerated erosion and sedimentation occurring at this farm. This project is located near the headwaters of the Sewickley Creek Watershed, which is classified as a High Quality (HQ) Cold Water Fishery (CWF) by the Department of Environmental Protection.

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Before: *Muddy and eroded animal walkway with runoff leading directly to a ditch that entered near the headwaters of Sewickley Creek, designated as a High Quality watershed.*

After: *Stabilized animal walkway with conveyor belt diversions to prevent erosion of the surface, which will prevent sediment from entering Sewickley Creek.*