

Ivy River EQIP Targeted Area in Madison County

Ivy River is part of the water supply watershed for a town in an adjoining county. When the state allowed the town to draw water from the Ivy River, water samples showed higher than allowable levels of fecal coliform in the water at certain times of the year - primarily in the late winter and early spring. Several sources of this problem were suggested. In the final analysis, the way beef cattle producers were feeding their livestock next to streams in the winter and early spring seemed to be the source of the problem.

This area was approved as an EQIP priority area to reduce fecal coliform from the streams. At the same time, one grant was received from the EPA 319 program and one from the CWMTF program. We came up with the idea of an Animal Feed Waste Structure to remove livestock from the stream edge and to collect and use animal waste under waste utilization plans and nutrient management plans along with several other practices.

The Feed Waste Structures are now approved statewide through the NC Agriculture Cost Share Program, and through EQIP in certain areas in the mountains.

The Feed Waste Structure was featured in the Progressive Farmer magazine this past spring and resulted in numerous requests for information. Educational Assistance funds through the EQIP program were used to produce a brochure that has been distributed to all counties in North Carolina. In addition, copies of this brochure have been mailed to 85 individuals and organizations in 20 states, mostly in the southeast.

To date through EQIP and the grant programs, we have installed nearly 20 Feed Waste structures with several others planned for next year. This program has been a success as the town indicates to us they are seeing their water samples at the intake improve from year to year.

This effort is summed up the best by a local farmer. "It is a good thing to be able to clean up the water and make me more efficient at the same time. It has been a cooperative effort so far with improved water quality and the farmers coming out winners also."