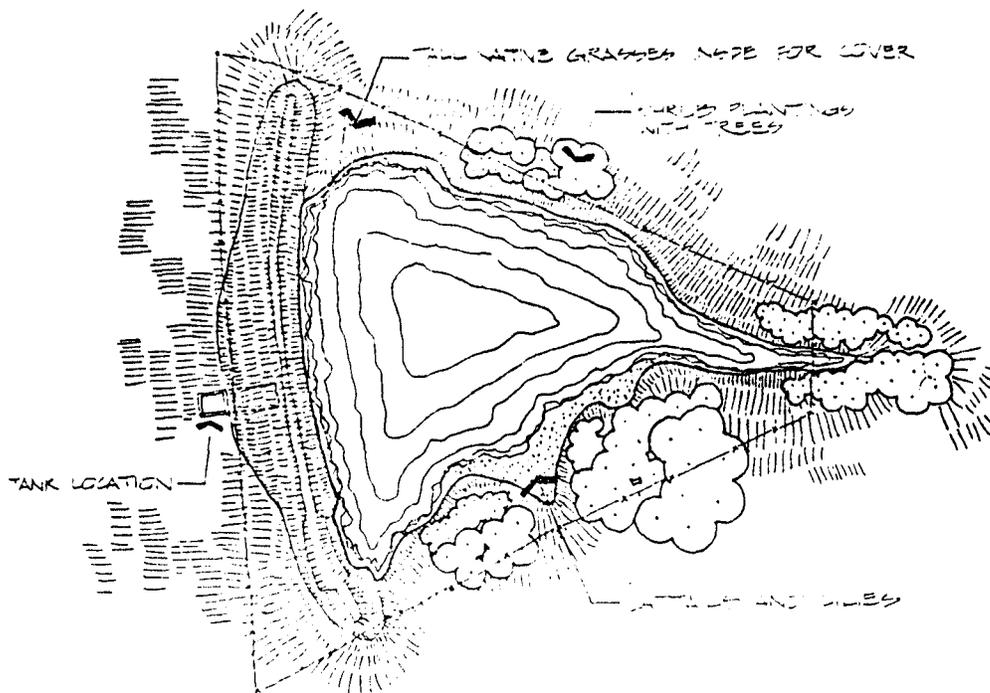


## FENCING FARM PONDS

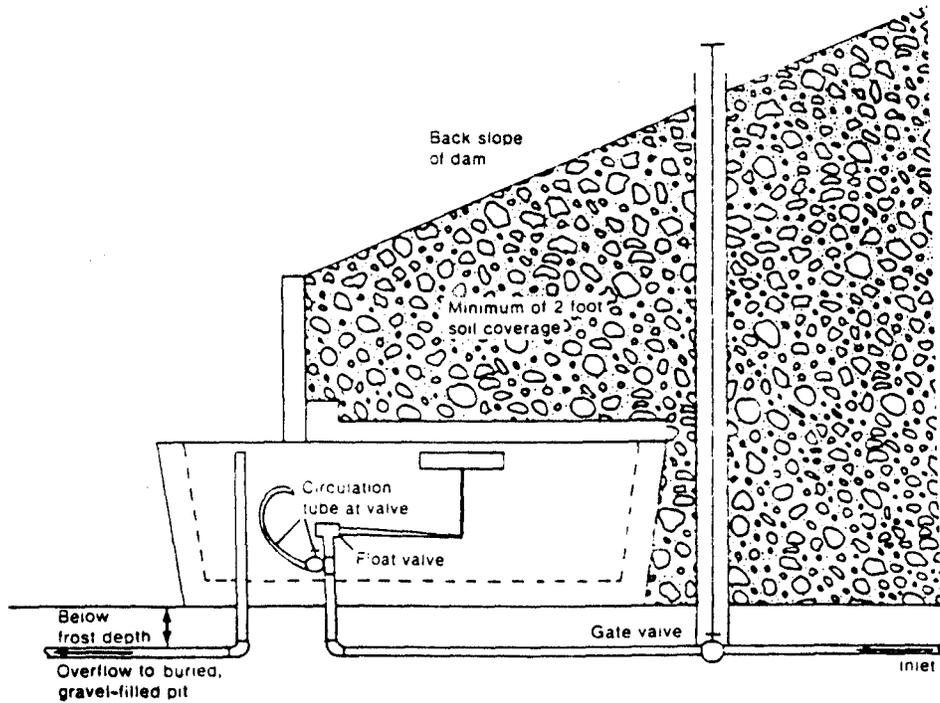
More than 200,000 ponds dot Oklahoma's landscape, more per square mile than in any other state. Most ponds can have improved fishing and enhanced wildlife by fencing to exclude livestock. Fencing allows the pond vicinity to become established in vegetation which reduces erosion. As a result, pond banks and dams become more stable and last longer. Siltation is reduced which in turn reduces turbidity and the formation of shallow areas in the pond. Because of the improved water quality, better fishing occurs. Wildlife habitat is improved by protecting vegetation which may serve as food or cover. Wildlife food on cover plantings may be established to further enhance wildlife in and around the pond.



Two of the more practical reasons for fencing farm ponds is to eliminate the hazards of cattle loss in the pond and to reduce the time spent maintaining open livestock water while the pond is frozen. By fencing the pond and installing a freeze-proof tank below, these two problems can be virtually eliminated.

A freeze-proof tank will provide running water in all but the most extreme cases of sub-zero weather. The tank is partially buried in the backslope of the dam. The water is kept from freezing by the combination of special design, partial burial of the tank and continuous flow of water.

Water is delivered to the tank by a 1½ inch diameter pipe placed through the dam. At least two feet of soil is placed on and around the tank to insulate it. Water from the pond runs to the tank and, in winter, discharges through an overflow pipe into a pit filled with gravel or large crushed stone. A float valve in the tank controls the water level. In winter continuous flow is maintained by opening a circulation valve.



Farm pond fencing can provide increased recreation, prolong the pond's life, reduce labor costs, and prevent livestock from being lost through the ice. In most instances benefits of the practice will outweigh the costs, in a short time.