

## Worth Considering

The PA Farm Bureau encourages every farmer to fence livestock herds out of all Pennsylvania streams. Our endorsement is a direct result of a very successful “flexible fencing” program in the Shenandoah Valley.



“Flexible” or “adaptive” fencing means that you, the farmer, can voluntarily determine the amount of set back you require from the top of a stream bank. You also have the liberty of determining the type of fencing to use and how to best manage the fenced-in or “buffer” area. Landowner costs may vary from 100% landowner expense for lesser measures to 100% cost share for use of the most protective measures!

The PA Farm Bureau encourages your strong consideration of this new fencing initiative!

**Consider starting with a 10 foot fenced set back. As you observe positive changes in stream quality, you may decide on additional setbacks in the future.**

**Clean water, healthy livestock and up to 100% cost share may be yours for choosing the most protective measure, the “Forested Riparian Buffer”.**

**PFB supports whatever option you decide works best for your farm. As always, we are working diligently with you to protect your liberty and maintain your control over important decisions affecting your livelihood and ability to provide essential service to the state and world.**

### Find Out More!

[http://www.wsi.nrcs.usda.gov/products/w2q/strm\\_rst/stream.html](http://www.wsi.nrcs.usda.gov/products/w2q/strm_rst/stream.html)

*Stream Restoration information from the USDA.*

[http://www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov/Pennsylvania Natural Resources Conservation Service, Division of USDA.](http://www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov/Pennsylvania%20Natural%20Resources%20Conservation%20Service)

<http://www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov/news/FTPPublications/LandownersGuide.pdf>

*A compilation describing major federal, state, and private voluntary conservation programs that provide financial incentives to private landowners for the installation of conservation buffers in PA.*

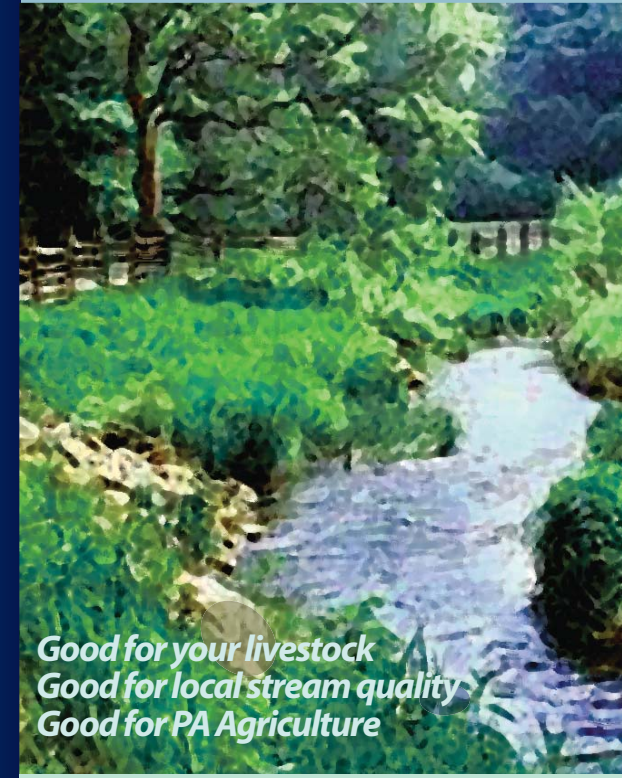
### Contact Us to Get Started!

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau  
Governmental Affairs and  
Communications Division  
510 S. 31st Street  
Camp Hill, Pa. 17011  
717.761.2740  
[conservation.pfb.com](http://conservation.pfb.com)

1/2010

*Demonstrating Once Again that Farmers are the Best Conservationists!*

## Voluntary Flexible Stream Bank Fencing



*Good for your livestock  
Good for local stream quality  
Good for PA Agriculture*

A cooperative effort to retain flexibility regarding Best Management Practices for maintaining stream quality



**Pennsylvania Farm Bureau**

# Pa. Farm Bureau Supports a Voluntary Flexible Fencing Program



In an effort by the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau to encourage every farmer to fence livestock out of streams and voluntarily improve water quality, PFB adopted a 2009 policy resolution supporting a **Voluntary Flexible Fencing Program**.

This program is designed to provide you, the livestock producer, with the flexibility to decide how to protect stream quality on your land, choosing what kind of stream fencing to use and its location, which methods of flood damage control and weed control you will employ, and how to allow livestock appropriate access to streams for drinking and crossing...

all in a way that works best for your farm. The information in this brochure will help you begin to assess the costs and benefits of each of the options as they might apply to your land and livestock.

Through this cooperative effort, our goal is for agriculture to retain the power to choose what Best Management Practices are most suited for our farms, and to maintain flexibility on how they can be implemented and managed.

By doing so, we will continue to enjoy positive improvements in water quality and animal health, once again demonstrating that farmers are the best conservationists!

Good	Better	Best
------	--------	------

**Fenced Set Back**  
 0' - 10' + set back  
 100% Landowner Expense

Your decision to fence your livestock out of the stream is a good choice to benefit local stream quality. More importantly, fencing your dairy herd or other livestock out of streams also improves your herd's health.

**Buffer Control:**  
 Livestock are permitted inside the fenced setback for limited periods only and may "flash graze" the area keeping 6+" minimum of grass.

No bare earth can be seen in the fenced setback area. Walkways to and from the stream must be properly stabilized.

**Standards Set by Farmer:**

Placement and type of fence and management of area inside of the fence.



**Vegetated Buffer**  
 15' to 35' + fenced set back  
 Limited Landowner Expense

Your decision to fence your livestock out of a stream with a 15' to 35' vegetated buffer is even more beneficial to the local stream quality. Better herd health too!

**Buffer Control:**

Buffer areas are controlled as prescribed by sponsoring program or agency.

**Standards Set by Sponsoring Program:**

The standards of the fencing program you select will dictate the minimum set back of the fence.

The management of the buffer zone will also be determined by the program subsidizing your project.

Fencing type may also be predetermined.



**Forested Riparian Buffer**  
 35'+ fenced set back  
 Min. Landowner Expense

Your decision to create a 35'-100' forested buffer offers the most benefit to local stream quality. This option provides up to 100% cost share. Farmers may combine programs and initiatives. CREP and DEP programs and other grants or nutrient trading programs are helpful.

**Buffer Control:**

Buffer areas are controlled as prescribed by sponsoring programs or agencies.

**Standards Set by Multiple Programs:**

Type and location of fencing, and management of the buffer area meet standards set by sponsoring programs and agencies.



**Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Policy:**

"We support a Voluntary Stream Bank Fencing Program that encourages farmers to use their best judgement on decisions about choosing a type of fence and its location, minimizing possible fence damage by floods, allowing weed control in the setback (buffer) area, permitting appropriate access to streams for livestock drinking and crossing, and focusing available funding on farms with the greatest problems and /or needs."