

Important Questions
For the Landowner
Before

Designing/Building
a Farm Pond

Why do you want the Pond?

This may be the most important question to ask. It will affect or determine the size, cost, depth, and many other factors.

There are many uses for ponds, including: Irrigation (row crops, vegetables, & orchards), Livestock watering, and Fish Production.

Questions if they plan on using for Irrigation

Do you already have irrigation equipment,
if so what type?

What do you plan to irrigate?

Is the crop existing or planned?

How many acres?

Questions if they plan on using for Livestock Watering

What type of livestock and how many?

Are you willing to fence live stock out?

Will pond supply a gravity-fed watering trough or will it require a pump system?

Questions if they plan on using for Fish Production

Are you in production?

What type of fish operation?

How much recharge water do you need? (Remember production ponds do not qualify)

Where do you want to build it?

Some people think that they can build a pond anywhere

There are specific conditions that are needed.

1. What is the water source? Will there be enough/too much water?
2. Is the site topography suitable?
3. Are soils adequate?
4. What hazards are downstream?

If their preferred site doesn't meet these conditions, are they willing to move site?

Are you aware of the Cost Involved?

AgWRAP has a \$15,000.00 Cap

Are they able to commit the remaining funds?
Some dams could be \$25,000.00 or more to build
depending on site conditions.

Are they willing to pay upfront for a backhoe
soils investigation prior to Ranking in
AgWRAP?

Are you aware of Regulatory Issues?

Are they aware of the potential need for Army Corp of Engineers permits or exemption (if exempt and they do not use the pond for the purpose it was exempt they will be required to pay mitigation fees or remove the dam and restore the stream)?

If they disturb more than one acre (in some counties ½ acre) they may need a sediment and erosion control plan or exemption.

Wetland Determination and jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act is not the same as any determination made by USDA for Wetland Compliance provisions of the Farm Bill. All USDA program participants should file an AD-1026 with FSA

Are you aware of Regulatory Issues?

Where will any excess spoil material be placed? If spoil material is to be removed from the site, there is a possibility that a mining permit may be required. We are working with DEMLR to put together a FAQ's sheet. In the mean time, check with the DENR regional office Land Quality Section responsible for your county before moving any soil off-site.

What about borrow material? Again, there is a possibility that a mining permit may be required of the person selling soil material.

Conservation Plan

What does the farmer/operator need to know?

- How to maintain the dam
- How to maintain the irrigation system or watering system
- What do they need to do in planning/planting the fields/rotations

Conservation Plan

Include what you would for any conservation plan for the entire operation be it crop fields, livestock operation or aquaculture operation. The only difference is that you including special provisions for buffers/fencing around the dam and impoundment area.