

A dairy farmer on the Inch Clutha has implemented changes on his property to improve his set up and reduce his risk of waterway contamination.

This handout shows the same areas before and after his improvements, which will hopefully inspire other farmers to carry out similar changes on their properties.

Before: Sloppy track - sloping towards drain.



After: Clean dry track - a base of brown rock capped with 50mm of lime race fines from Palmerston, sloped towards paddock, plantings next to track to absorb any runoff and reduce boggiess of paddock.



Before: Overflowing stone trap straight into drain, no yard diversion.



After: Extra height on stone trap so doesn't overflow when cleaning with a digger, drain removed so no overflow can enter a waterway. Yard diversion installed.



Many of the things you can implement on your property are simple, one-off steps that will help reduce contaminated runoff entering drains and waterways, which in turn will gain a tick from compliance, keep your cows happy and improve the aesthetics of your property.

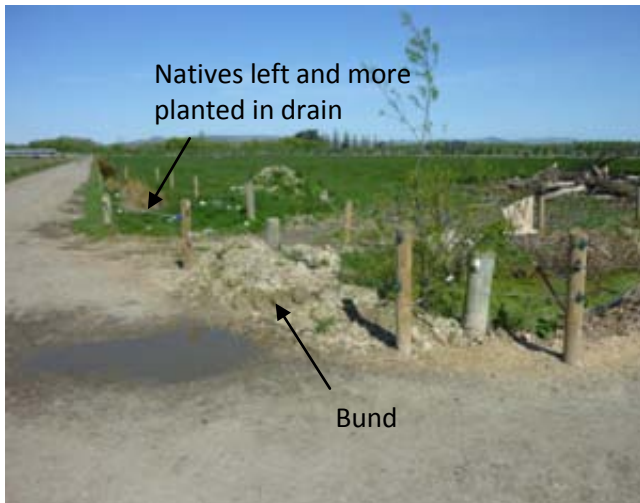
Quick tips

1. Assess your farm and decide what the riskiest issues are in terms of waterways contamination.
2. Improve the things that pose the greatest environmental risk first. Then when money and time allow, tick off others on your list.
3. Set aside a certain amount of money each year for improvements and environmental initiatives and then plan to do one or two each year – farms are constantly changing places, there are always improvements to be made.

Before: Pugged up and effluent on track junction over main drain. Shaded so didn't dry out, angled so muck can slop straight into drain.



After: New track material, edge of drain banded up so no muck will slop over into drain, large willow removed so sun dries junction. Planted natives along paddock drain leading to main drain to absorb any nutrient runoff from track.



If you have an idea of a way to improve the environmental performance of your farm but aren't quite sure, or you have any questions, contact an ORC Land Resources Officer.

0800 474 082 land.resources@orc.govt.nz

ORC would like to acknowledge Dean Gilbert for the positive improvements he has made on farm and for sharing them with others at a field day, and in this document.

Ideas for your farm

Tracks

When re-metaling your tracks, think about where your runoff will flow.

- Have the camber leaning away from drains, to reduce sediment or effluent reaching the drains.
- If there are drains both sides, ensure there is enough of a buffer to capture any runoff before it enters the drain.
- If tracks cross drains or streams, ensure there are lips or a bund on the edge to ensure nothing slops into the drain.

Silage pits

- Create good quality silage, this ensures the smallest volume of leachate.
- Ensure your silage pit is sealed so that leachate does not enter the groundwater.
- Ensure any leachate is captured and **NEVER ALLOWED TO ENTER A WATERWAY.**

Effluent

- Ensure you get your pond empty when the soil moisture can handle it, so you have plenty of storage come Spring and calving time.
- To see what the soil moisture levels are close to your property go to www.orc.govt.nz and click on 'Land Info - Soil moisture monitoring' in the 'Quick Links' box at the bottom of the page.

Plantings

- Use locally sourced natives – these are more likely to withstand local conditions.
- Plant during late winter/early spring – this ensures your young plants receive enough water and then can take off when temperatures increase.