Innovations in Wastewater Management for Small Meat Processors



ASSISTANCE NETWORK



July 23, 2013 Webinar

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RECIRCULATING VERTICAL FLOW CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS AT GUNTHORP FARMS, LAGRANGE COUNTY, INDIANA

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JULY 2013

Solving problems by focusing on solutions

Background

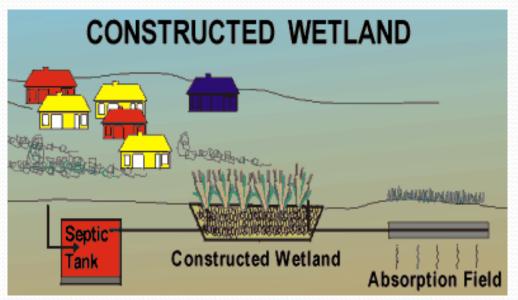
- CWs have been used to treat wastewater in EU & US for several decades
 - <u>Last 25 years</u> residential & commercial sewage treatment uses in LaGrange County, NE Indiana
- Newer designs based on a more <u>understanding of</u> science and <u>underlying mechanisms of the wetlands</u>
 - RVFCW: <u>Recirculating Vertical Flow Constructed</u>
 <u>Wetland</u>
- Application of technology expanding to new areas: Mines discharge; landfills; CAFO, aquaculture; etc.

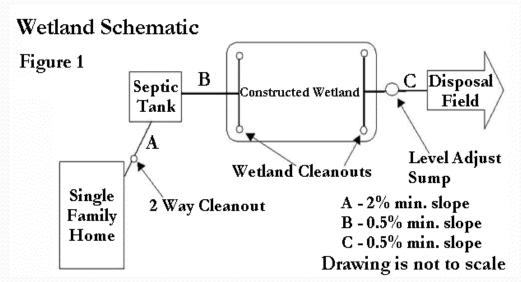
What are Constructed Wetlands To Treat Sewage On-Site?

- Man made design systems
- Built specifically to remove contaminants in wastewaters that flow through them
- Involve physic, chemical and biological removal processes
- Not designed to fully recreate natural wetlands: many CWs to treat sewage on site look "dried" environments.



Where Are Constructed Wetlands Installed?





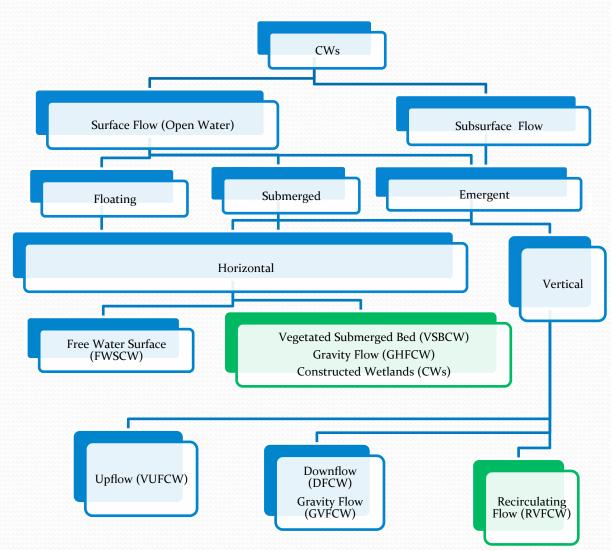
Types of Constructed Wetland Systems*

Hydrology

Vegetation

Flow Path

Design

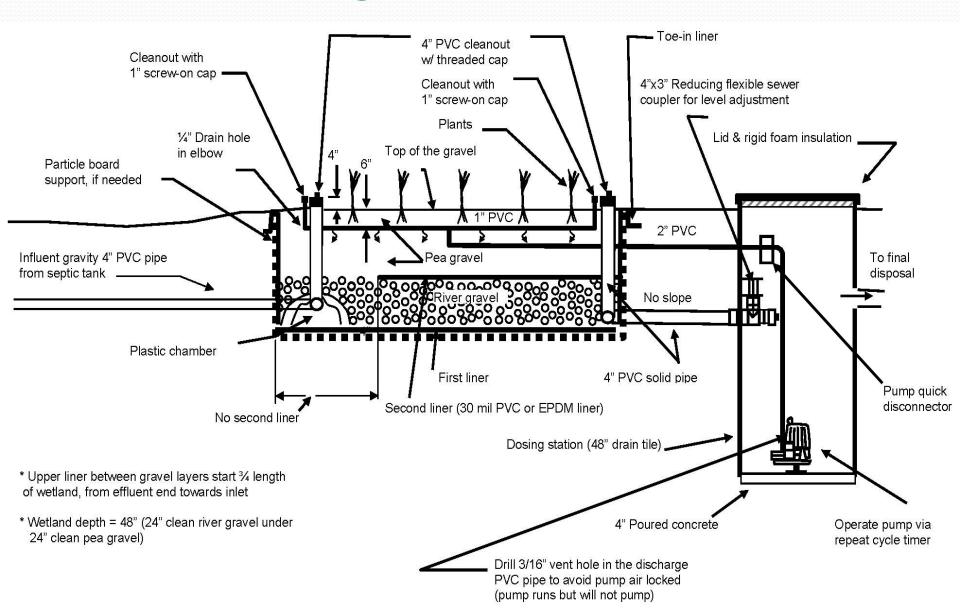


^{*} Modified after Wallace and Knight, 2006

Why Constructed Wetland (CW)?

- Classic example of passive treatment
 - Natural processes to remove contaminants
 - Designed to be low energy input requirements, and low maintenance to operate indefinitely
- EU has systems working for more than 100 years
- LaGrange County systems already reached "adult" age:
 - * 1st residential GHFCW installed around 1990 (24 years of service)
 - * 1st commercial GHFCW installed in 1993 (20 years of service): 50K GPD
 - * 1st residential RVFCW installed in 2001 (12 years of service)
 - * 1st commercial RVFCW installed in 2004 (10 years of service): 1,600 GPD Gunthorp's Farm

RVFCW Longitudinal Sectional View



RVFCW Installation

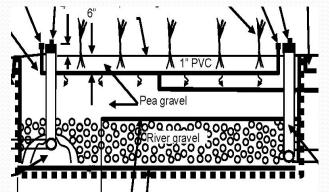




















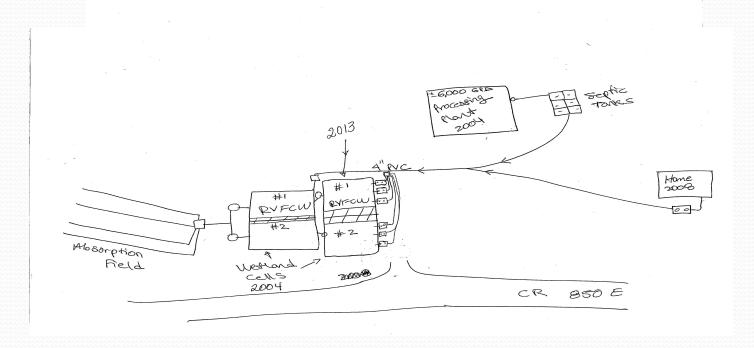


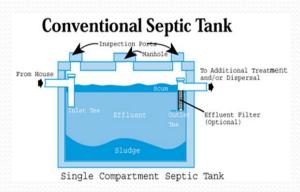
Materials and Methods: Gunthorp Farms

- Preliminary Information
 - Flow:
 - 1600 GPD (2004)
 - 600 GPD (2008)
 - 6000 GPD (2013)

- Design of the system (ISDH):
 - Septic Tanks & Outlet filter
 - Subsurface Constructed Wetland:
 - Type: RVFCW
 - Dimensions:
 - 20' X20' X4' (2004)
 - 25' X25' X4' (2013)
 - Final Effluent Disposal:
 - Absorption field

General Sketch of the System





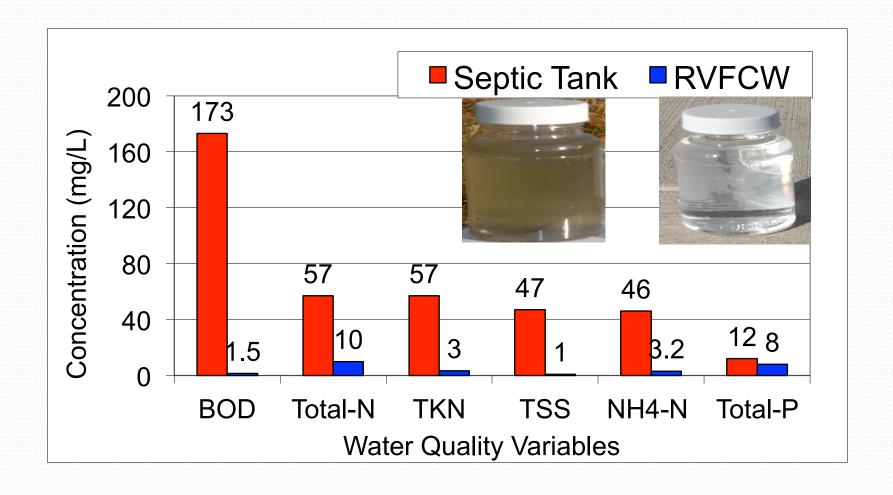




Laboratory Testing:

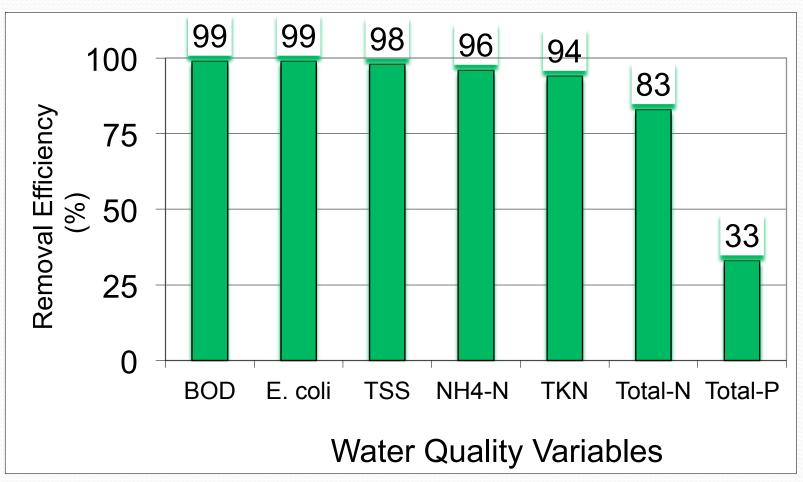
- Certified US EPA Laboratory
- Samples effluent: septic tank versus RVFCW
- Analysis Effluent for:
 - BOD_{5:} Biological Oxygen Demand
 - TSS: Total Suspended Solid
 - Nitrogenous compounds:
 - Ammonia-nitrogen (NH⁺₄-N)
 - Total Kjeldhal Nitrogen (TKN=NH⁺₄-N + Organic N: urea and uric acid)
 - Nitrate (NO-3-N)
 - TN (TKN + Nitrate)
 - Total phosphorus (TP)
 - Fecal coliform bacteria (*E. coli*)
 - On-site: T°C (air and water), DO, ORP and pH

Results and Discussion



^{*}Fecal coliform (*E. coli*) 2 to 4 log reduction from 10^6 to $10^{4/3}/10^2$

CONCLUSIONS



FUTURE REPORTS

- Recirculating vertical flow constructed wetlands to enhance biological nitrogenous and phosphorus removal from sewage:
 - Engineered ecosystems for sustainable biomass crop production: Corn, sunflowers, soya-beans



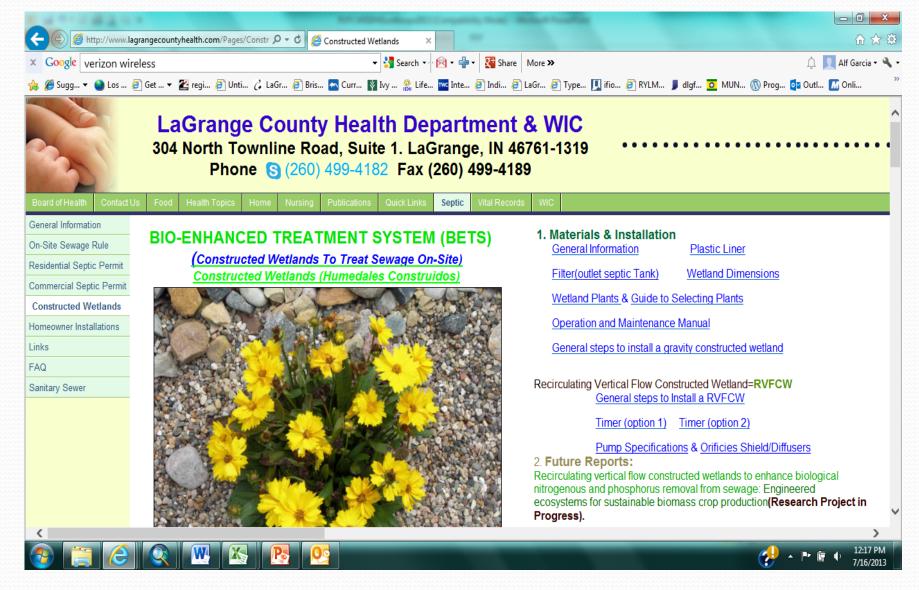






- Tire chips as replacement of stone
- Recycling & Reuse: Water reclamation

Additional Information about CWs



Thanks a lot for your time and attention..!!!

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