

AGENDA or OUTLINE

Saturday, March 16, 2002 9:30am Dave Kusel farm

Welcome FFA students and Advisor

Introduce: Tom Gach – Member W.E.L.L. Upper Nishnabotna Water Shed Project, and my wife Nancy, also member W.E.L.L.
Jamie Ridgely, Agren Inc. Administrators of the FARM*A*SYST program.
Dave Kusel, host and also member W.E.L.L.

Thank Larissa and all in attendance for their concern for OUR environment and continued way of life.

Brief explanation of why we are here today:

Review the process to interview local residents through the use of the FARM*A*SYST program

Begin “role play” with Dave.

Instill a WANT in the person being interviewed

Begin with water quality issues concerning health, more field chemicals are being used, more livestock today than in the past, make things change.

Talk about water source, and sources of contamination to this source, this should lead to the subject of the active well or an abandoned well.

Physically go to where the well or abandoned well is:

Use the FARM*A*SYST and “Assessing Your Water Well Condition and Maintenance Practices” I would start on page 3, just inside of front cover and go through the necessary items to identify the type and condition of the well. If it’s an abandoned well, go to page 10. Then go to page 13 (evaluation your potential risks) explain that gray colored column is the evaluation area and that those with a rain drop are CRITICAL points, the next 3 columns describe conditions of risks and that the light blue exclamation mark indicated an area that is in Violates Iowa Code. Remember to note the items that you find that need to be improved (these will be included in a “Plan of Action” later.

From here do the same evaluation of the cistern. Remember to look at lawn decorations (flowers) and the type of care and fertilizer used close to the cistern. Even the pets that frequent the area near the cistern.

While at the well talk about the one of the next most serious possibility of contamination to the groundwater on a farmstead, the septic system. From where you are (near the well) determine the approximate location of the septic system and the possibility of it contaminating the well. Again hit upon the points of the well that need improving, especially if they let surface water or shallow ground water enter the well.

Physically go to where the owner thinks the septic system. is located. Ask questions as to what owner knows about his system. If it is over 20 years old, it will probably just dump out in a ditch some where – this is really health harmful. The correct way is for it to be absorbed in the ground, with 3 feet of good soils between it and the seasonal high water table, which usually gets to within 6 feet of the ground level sometime during the year.

Use the FARM*A*SYST and “Assessing Your Household Wastewater Maintenance Practices” I would start on page 3, just inside of front cover and go through

the necessary items to identify the type and condition of the septic system. Here is where you begin to mention how each topic in the FARM*A*SYST program is written in the same manner and how once you've gone through one topic, the next will be easier, etc. Repeat this next section, because of its importance and the want to really get this across to the owner. Go to page 13 (evaluation your potential risks) explain that gray colored column is the evaluation area and that those with a rain drop are CRITICAL points, the next 3 columns describe conditions of risks and that the light blue exclamation mark indicated an area that is in Violates Iowa Code. Remember to note the items that you find that need to be improved (these will be included in a "Plan of Action" later.

While you are next to the house is a good time to take the water sample. See attached "Water sampling instructions" sheet. This should bring back the importance of water quality to your discussion and lead you into the next section.

Explain to the owner how we just showed the need to know about what you have on your farmstead and its importance of knowing where things are located and realizing why they need to be located properly (septic systems away from well, surface water run off diverted away from well, Cistern properly covered, even the type of fertilizer used on the lawn when a cistern is in use). Here is where you bring up the "Assessing the Characteristics of Your Farmstead" section of FARM*ASYST. By now you hope to have given the owner the "Want" to know more about his farmstead and the reasons for this want. **Here start with page 2** which explains the entire FARM*A*SYST program. Continue on with this topic, reviewing the manual and then actually walk the farm place and map it, using the manual's suggestions and you talents. Today, learn how to judge distances and make a map that is realistic. Start with a scratch map and then while still there, draw a more detailed version. You will find you have forgotten some things, that is why it is best to do the detailed version while your still there. You can take this detailed map and "polish" it later.

Once you have finished with your detailed map, review it with the homeowner and begin an Action Plan for them. Things that the two of you have talked about as you walked the place and reviewed the FARM*A*SYST program. These should range from the simple quick things that can be done, to future planning, when remodeling or rebuilding is done. (from replacing a missing brick in the well casing to moving the fuel barrels).

Questions and hopefully answers

Ask for a volunteer team to go through role play with me , or teams to go through role play with each of us.

In conclusion, encourage each of the FFA members to practice this with a parent or relative, soon, before they forget the smaller details. Once you've encountered the questions it's easier to remember the answers, so don't wait to long to begin.