Earth-Heated Livestock Waterer

"Our new livestock waterer requires no outside heat but stays open all winter," say Richard and Jean Winebrenner about their "earth-heated" Cobett waterer.

It consists of a plastic watering tub that's partially buried below ground and is housed inside a 4-in. thick insulated donut-shaped housing that extends farther down into the ground. The housing rests on top of a ground heat tube that's located below the frost line.

"It's simple to install and requires no concrete, no outside heat source, no covering over the water, and no minimum number of livestock to keep it working," says Richard. "We designed it for our own farm in 1993 and began to test market it in 1996. Farmers really like its design and performance. Since the water tub is suspended within the ground heat chamber, it's constantly warmed or cooled by underground temperatures. In the coldest weather, a layer of ice may develop on the water surface but you can quickly chip it open if needed. All the plumbing components will still be safe because they're within the ground heat chamber and protected from frigid air.

"The system is easy to service. To clean the tub just lift it out, swish around some water, and empty it out."

The waterer includes the ground heat

tube and is available with a 5 or 18-gal. tub capacity. The 5-gal. model serves 65 head of beef in a dry-lot. The 18-gal. model serves up to 200 beef cows in a dry-lot.

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Reader Inquiry No. 23



Cobett's earth-heated livestock waterer consists of a plastic watering tub that's partially buried below ground.



