



Irrigated pastures are ideal for horses and other grazing animals.



A popular irrigation method is pop-up sprinklers.



The pop-up sprinkler is buried in the ground, away from hooves, mowers, and farm equipment.



When not in use, the pop-up sprinkler is hidden. However, over time the sprinkler can work its way further into the ground. This can cause wear and make maintenance difficult.



An irrigation block protects the sprinkler head and makes it easier to find.



When water is flowing, the sprinkler head rises above the protective irrigation block.



To make the irrigation block, we start with a 1-foot-diameter sonotube. These are concrete forms available at lumberyards and home stores.



Cut a 3-inch slice out of the sonotube.

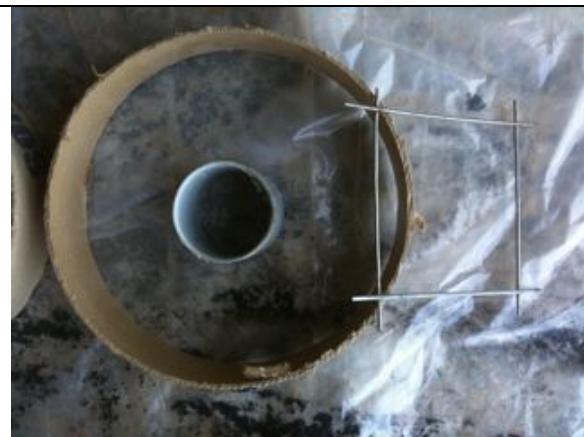




Cut a similar 3-inch slice out of a 3-inch-diameter thin-wall PVC pipe.



Cut a square out of 4x4 concrete wire reinforcement or hogwire fencing to fit over the PVC pipe and within the sonotube.



Assemble the sonotube, PVC pipe, and wire on a sheet of visqueen plastic sheeting.



Pour the sonotube half-full of ready mix concrete. Lay the wire on top of the concrete.



Fill the rest of the sonotube to the top.



It's convenient to do several blocks at a time. 2 60-pound bags of ready-mix concrete is just right for 6 irrigation blocks.



After the concrete has cured, lay in your irrigation block. Don't bother to remove the sonotube form or PVC pipe. They are fine as-is.



Ingredients for each set of 3 irrigation blocks:

- 1 9-inch length of sonotube
- 1 60-lb bag of readymix concrete
- 1 1-square-foot of 4-inch wire mesh
- 1 9-inch length of 3-inch diameter thin-wall PVC pipe.