



PRINCE WILLIAM
Soil and Water
Conservation
DISTRICT

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This project received funding from the Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund provided by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), via grant number 2007-WQIF-19.



Notes from the field – December 2009 – Snow Update
By Kate Norris
Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District

December 2009

December 2009 snow update:



Electric fence can be used in deep snow, if you plan ahead

After the record-breaking 18 inches of snow on December 19th I was glad we had not electrified the bottom strand of Oakwood's high-tensile fencing. At my personal farm, the bottom strand of poly-tape electric fencing was buried under the snow (see photo). I contacted [Ric Lavoy at Kencove Farm Fence Supply](#) for advice. He said that if you want to electrify lower strands on a fence it's best to have a way to be able to disconnect the charge from the bottom strand if needed and to keep the top strands electrified. Good to know. For now my horses are respecting the uncharged poly-tape fence as a physical barrier which I don't normally recommend. I think this is working (fingers crossed) for me so far simply because they are used to the fence being charged all the time and they might not be

challenging it.

Edith Kennedy reported that her [Bar-Bar-A](#) water troughs continued to work through the snow. She did have to clean the snow out of the drinking bowl occasionally while it was snowing so the horses would have water rather than slush to drink. I bet it was nice not to have to worry about floating heaters and extension cords!



Bar-Bar-A trough worked through the snowstorm

Coming Soon...check out [O2 Composting](#) for a sneak peek.

Construction is scheduled to begin in early January 2010 thanks to some additional support from [Fairfax Water through their Water Supply Protection and Education Grant](#) and continued support from [Crawford Fencing Stable Grid](#) becomes a supporter as well.

Our core grant team:



Left to right: Kate Norris, Beata Coss and Nicole Ethier of Prince William SWCD have been working on this project since inception.



Left to right: Pete Shiner, Mistfield Farm and Robin Lancaster, Blue Top Farm have volunteered numerous hours on the project and continue to do so.



Left to right: Beata Coss and Nicole Ethier share fencing layout ideas with Oakwood owner Edith Kennedy



Pete Shiner helps direct the gravel trucks