

Water - The real thing: Collect it all

Water is not easy to get all year round for animals. There is a lot of water during the rains which goes to waste. Collect and store this water for livestock use. Use a water pan to store water.

What is a water pan?

- It is a pond for storing water from roads and fields.

Why water pans?

- Simple water storage.
- Easy to make.
- More water for animals.
- For watering crops.

Where do you build water pans?

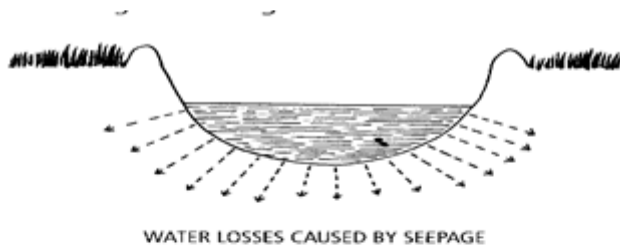
- At lowest point of the farm.
- Near road or field.
- On soils which hold water (clay soil).

How much water can you store in the pan?

- A round pan 24 ft across and 3 ft deep will hold 200 drums, enough water for animals when there is no rain.
- A water pan can take any shape and size but the walls should be stable.

How do you prevent water loss?

- Build the pans on soils which hold water.
- Line the pan bed and walls with heavy clay or plastic sheeting.
- Plant trees around the waterpan to stop the water from drying up.
- Good trees to plant around a water pan are acacia, grafella, croton and neem tree.
- Blue gum is not good.



How do you make pan walls strong?

- Put stones on the sides.
- Make the slopes gentle.
- Plant grass on the wall.

How do you keep the water clean?

- Make silt traps or check dams to slow down the waterflow to let the soil go to the bottom before going to the waterpan.
- Fence off the pan.
- Plant appropriate trees around pan.
- Use animal water troughs.

- Water in the cattle trough may be treated.

How do you maintain a water pan?

- Remove dirt
- Clean ditches

