LIFE

A U.S. CAPITALIST HAS FUN IN MOSCOW

PARTY SHOES AND DRESSES FOR LITTLE GIRLS

20 CENTS

JUNE 2, 1952

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

Farm Ponds

WATER FOR DROUGHT AND FOOD AND FUN

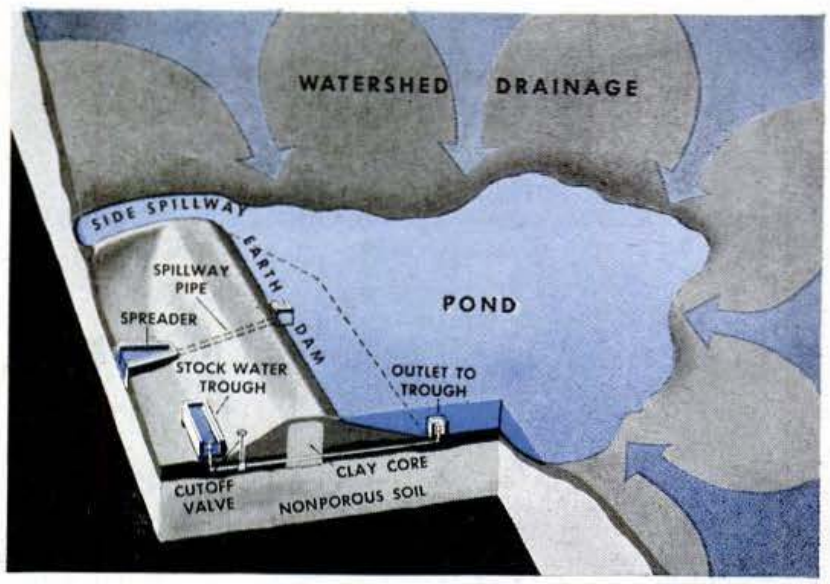
During the past year about 115,000 farm ponds were dug in the U.S., half of them with subsidies from the federal and state governments. This brings to over a million the number of man-made ponds on American farms, most of them built in the past 20 years. They provide farmers with a year-round supply of water for cattle and irrigating fields.

This year 40 states have been granted federal funds to help farmers pay for the cost of the ponds. The average small farm pond (see diagrams, *below*) can be dug for as little as $450. The usual subsidy to qualifying farmers is 35% to 40% of the pond's cost.

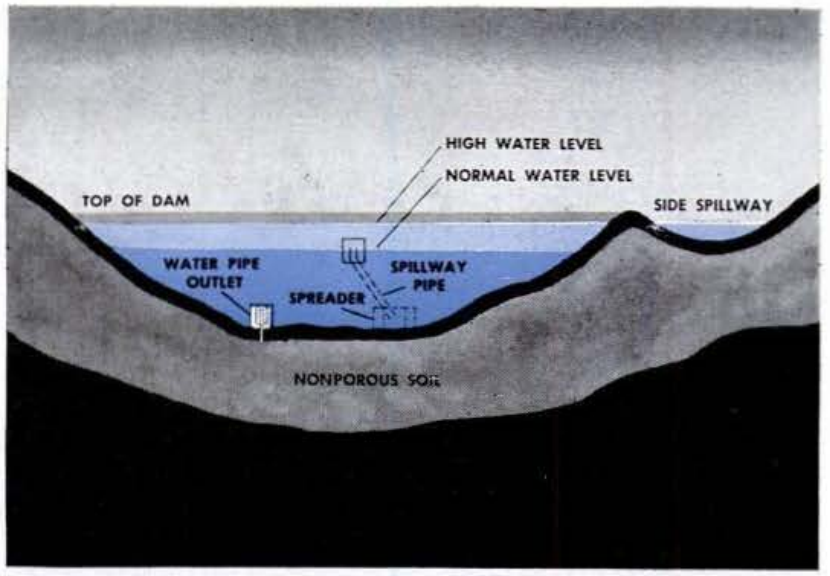
Consultation with the local county agent or Department of Agriculture representative is advisable in choosing a site. The watershed above the pond should be between 10 and 30 acres—large enough to keep water in the pond during dry periods but not so large as to flood the pond during heavy rains. The best watershed is one covered with grass, trees or shrubs. Before the pond is dug, tests of the soil must be made to find out if the subsoil has enough clay to hold water. Rock or shale ledges, sand, gravel or peat subsoil are too porous. Ponds should be at least six feet deep and no less than one quarter acre in area.

In addition to its usefulness as a water supply for crops and livestock, the farm pond brings a number of incidental pleasures to the farm. It attracts birds and wildlife, gives the family a chance to swim and in cold sections to ice-skate. For about $25 it can be stocked with enough baby fish to provide sport for family fishermen and net food—200 pounds of bass and bluegills per acre of pond—for the family table.

ENJOYING THE POND on the Hinkle farm in Bucks County, Pa., Stevie Hinkle and his dog soak themselves. Woodrow Wehrung, who built pond, has dug 75 of them in that vicinity in past three years.



FARM POND LAYOUT recommended by U.S. government is given in bird's-eye-view diagram which shows bulldozed excavation, watershed, properly constructed earthen dam and two outlets. Special pipe (*foreground*) carries water to a trough for the cattle. Pond remains clean if cattle drink from separate trough.



CROSS SECTION OF POND shows nonporous clay subsoil required to hold water. If clay must be imported, price of pond rises. Top of dam is higher than pipe spillway and higher than side spillway which is built to carry off sudden downpours, spring thaws. If water is allowed to flow over dam, it could be damaged.

FINISHING A POND the builder sows seed along harrowed and fertilized banks. Grass cover helps prevent soil erosion, keep water clean. This spring-fed pond is not completely full. Water will rise to the top of the run-off pipe at lower right. Covering one-quarter acre, pond is especially deep, cost $1,100 to build.

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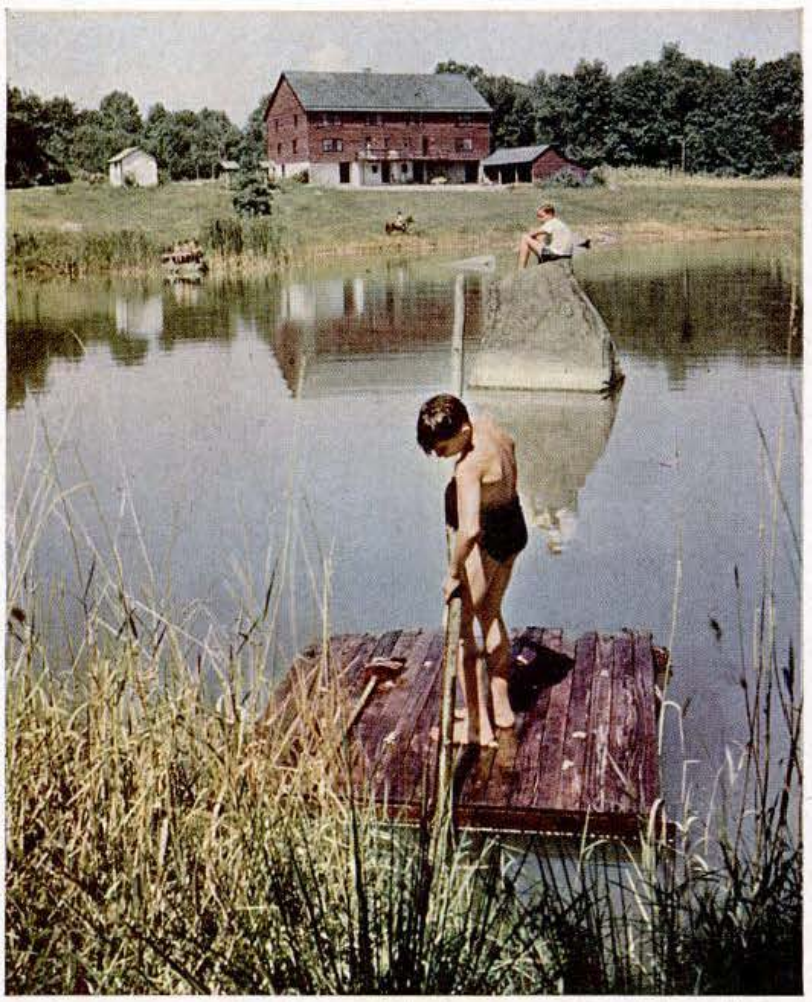
CHICKEN FARM POND fed by rain water cost $850, was built as a year-round supplementary source of water for crops and chickens and also as a fire protection.



PLEASURE POND of three acres fed by spring makes swimming and fishing possible. It cost $1,750, has increased value of property and pays its way in fun.

LIVESTOCK POND, fed by run-off from surrounding fields, cost $575, is used for cattle, ducks and to attract wild birds. The water runs to a trough for animals.

BUDGET POND for small dairy farm cost only $360, saves farmer from hauling→ water for cows during dry spells, gives him extra supply of water to irrigate crops.