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farmstead



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Running water from an outside tap can save time. Following these simple steps to install a frost-free water hydrant will also save you money and effort.

BY OSCAR H. WILL III

WHETHER YOU’RE WASHING A TRACTOR, watering a new patch of garden or filling a stock tank, getting water closer to where it’s needed is a huge help. Surprisingly, installing a new spigot, even one that’s protected from the elements, is fairly easy—especially when compared to dragging a couple hundred feet of garden hose to wherever duty calls.

The process is relatively simple and requires only a few tools and materials, including a hydrant with a standpipe sufficiently long to place the valve below the frost line; some pea rock or ½-inch screened crushed rock; some hand tools; and ideally, a backhoe fitted on your compact tractor.

Determining Location

The first step is to decide where you want the hydrant. Be sure to situate it where it will be convenient for a number of purposes and unlikely to get hit by a vehicle, such as a snowplow, tractor or truck. Ideally you want to place it next to the south-facing wall of a building where it can benefit the most from available sunshine. Then, too, you’ll want to protect it from large stock; >>