



WATERSHED 360°

GRADES 9-12

EPISODE 8 | "SPRING FED"

SPRING FED (4:04)

Viewer Guide

"No matter where we are at on the globe, we all have some of the same challenges. We all need water." Sarah Sortum and Bruce Switzer at the Switzer Ranch and Calamus Outfitters are the hosts in this Watershed video. Viewers will get a sense of riding down the Calamus River in a tank and bouncing along in a jeep through the ranch in the Sandhills. Sarah explains how the ranch has changed over time to include wells for the cattle instead of just ponds and streams and the addition of ecotourism. The ability to take advantage of the groundwater with wells enables the ranch to use the grass in a more efficient manner. The river gives the family an opportunity to cash in on tourism. Don't forget to move the viewer to take advantage of the 360 view and observe the people, action, and landscape.

Captions

Ecotourism supports habitat conservation and biodiversity. (0:46)

Over 700 prairie plant species depend on groundwater from the Ogallala Aquifer. (1:05)

Windmills pump groundwater into stock tanks for use by livestock. (1:41)

Wise ranching practices promote conservation and sustainability in the Sandhills. (2:40)

Pre-Questions

1. How do Sandhills ranchers earn money to live?
2. What is ecotourism?
3. What animals would be raised on a Sandhill ranch?

Post-Questions

1. What were the three activities offered by the Calamus Outfitters?
2. How do those activities fit ecotourism?
3. How do putting down wells for cattle to drink at a tank give the ranchers a better opportunity of practice conservation and sustainability?
4. What did Sarah Sortum mean when she said, "Our culture needs the opportunities to see nature."?

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