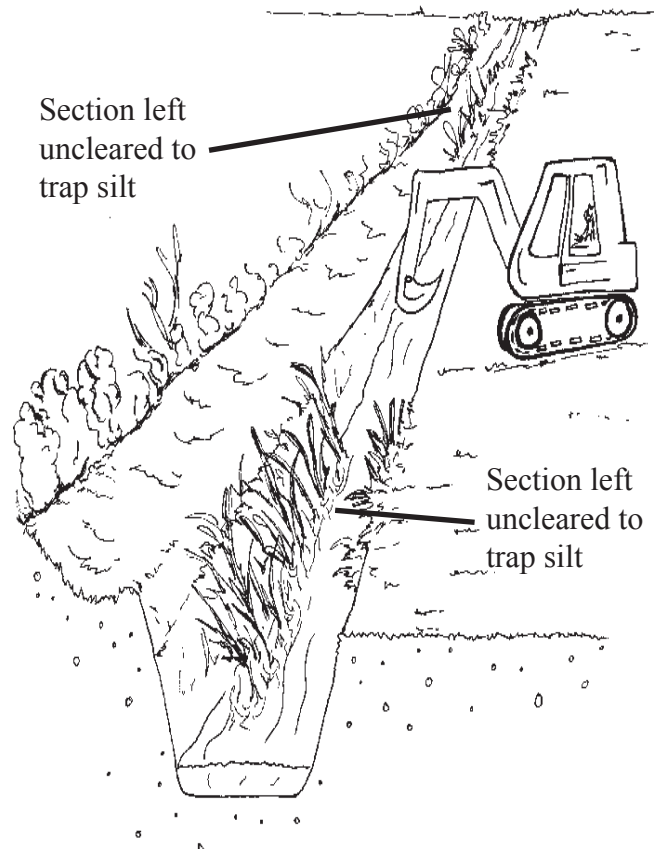


Silt Trapping Ditch Management

Ditches are cleaned in sections, leaving vegetated areas to trap silt, nutrients and pollutants.



If ditches are cleaned out completely, water, silt and pollutants can move directly from fields, farm yards and roads into watercourses.

Ditches can be managed by leaving alternate sections of ditches vegetated. Silt can then be trapped and natural processes can help to break-down pollutants and excess nutrients before they reach watercourses.

These sections can be cleared in alternate years so that ditches do not silt up completely and stop running. This operation also reduces the costs of ditch management.