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Riprap Gives Erosion a Nap

This project was to examine riprap or gravel for its effectiveness to stop or slow down erosion during runoff after rain or snow melt. The question of which size riprap was best was also tested. The erosion problem of gully erosion was the main erosion looked at. A 6 foot piece of rain gutter was used with 2 cups of new sand in each test. The layering of sand, 1/2 inch riprap and 1 inch riprap was tested in 5 different ways. The water that was allowed through the rain gutter was measured each time to see which riprap stopped the water flow best. The control of just sand showed the tester the amount of topsoil that is washed away with each heavy and fast moving water that passed over the farm ground. In the rain gutter "gully" testing the results showed that riprap worked very well in slowing the water runoff and keeping it from washing away the sand. The best result in this project of controlling runoff water was the layering of sand, 1/2 riprap and topped with the 1 inch riprap. The project also showed how well riprap fits together and works as a wall against running water. Riprap is a great tool in the fight against erosion for all people to use. It is an easy product to use and is easy to find. The significance of this project's findings are that riprap is a very effective tool in controlling erosion.