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Ours solution for hard water.
by Tony Mc Quail.

One of the pleasures of our farm is our spring water. When we travel, especially to urban areas, we often take a bottle or two with us, but we do have a problem. Our water is hard. When we had it tested in 1994, it had a calculated hardness of 384. Drinking water is in the range of 80-100 milligrams per liter. Hardness > 200 milligrams per liter is considered poor but tolerable. Hardness in excess of 300 milligrams per liter is unacceptable for most domestic purposes. At 384 milligrams per liter our water was definitely high on the hardness scale. The soap scum, clogged filters, deposits which ruined the seal of our low flush toilet, and the weekly cleaning of our kettle were all problems resulting from our hard water. However, their nuisance was never enough to opt for a salt based water softener. I liked being able to drink the water wherever I was on the farm, and I had concerns about the amount of salt required, the maintenance and the energy use of water softeners. I was intrigued by information I heard about using magnets or electricity to soften the water. This spring, we bought a waterking electronic computerized water conditioner on trial. It had 100 day money back guarantee and I was ready to try something.

We chose their larger residential units because our house, small greenhouse and livestock are all watered from our spring. It was about \$600 and very simple to install. All we had to do was to wrap four wires into coils around our house supply pipe. That was in May and we saw some immediate results. Previously, a razor blade would last me one week. It would clog up as I was shaving and I had to keep cleaning it with an old toothbrush. With everything the same, except for the water conditioner a blade will now last me four weeks. It still isn't badly clogged at the end of that time but it's getting dull. Now, when I take a shower, I don't finish up standing in a pool of soap scum, and I don't think I'm any less dirty than I was before. These are not scientific studies but when you look at the before and after razor blades with a magnifying glass the difference is striking.

Water King claims the conditioned water will removal scale, but well as a patient enough to wait. I came to toilet sealed three weeks after we install the conditioner and scale was much easier to clean. Also, it's not accumulating. The old stains in the toilet are fading and, hopefully, they soon will be gone.

Hard water, while a minor nuisance, can take its toll of equipment and maybe a problem for other farmers to. This unit seems to be working, however if anyone knows of concerns I'd be pleased to know.