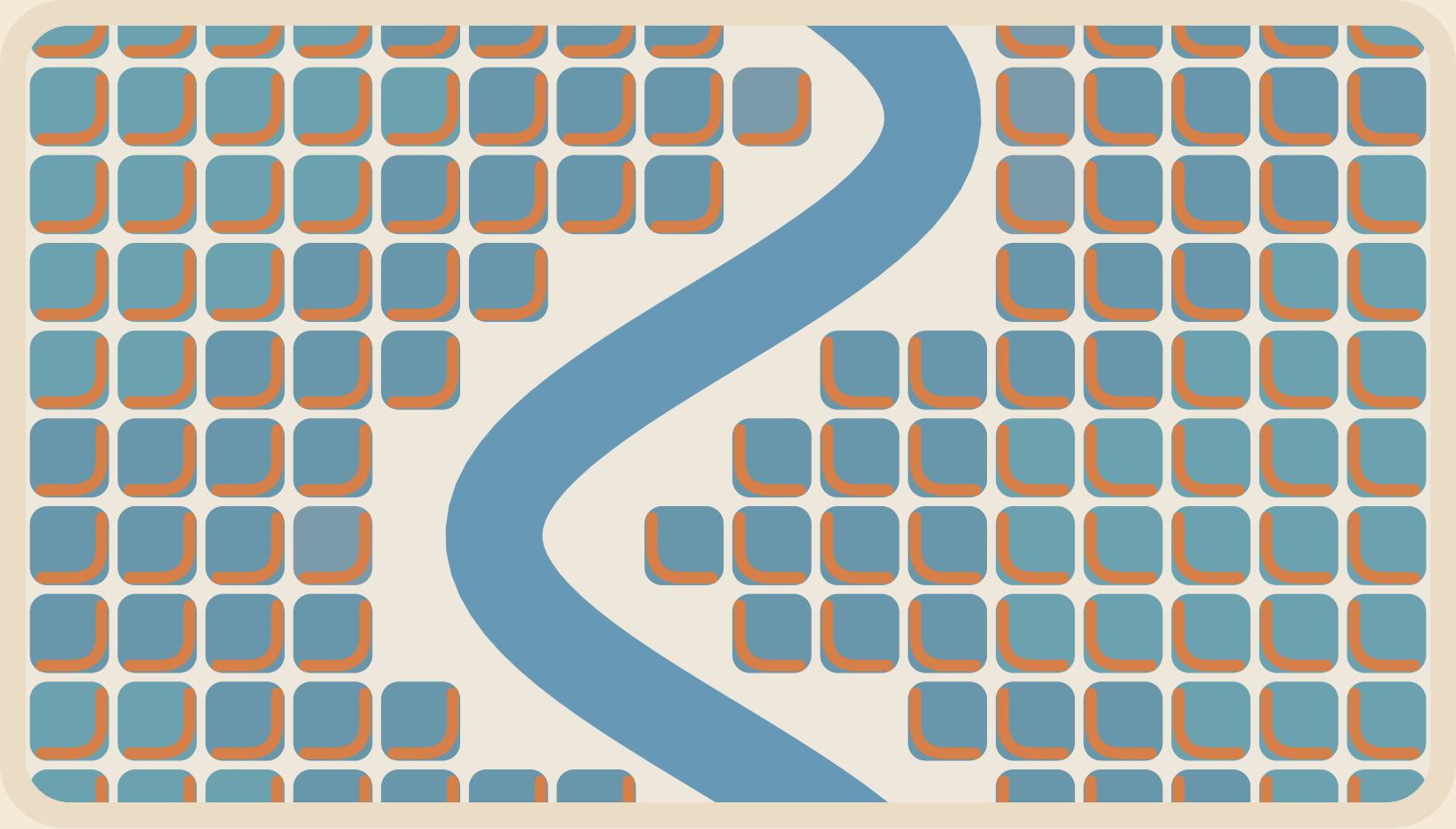
Water idea

Mississippi Delta

What if every acre held its own rain?



A plan farmers can build with what they already own

Swipe →

THE PROBLEM

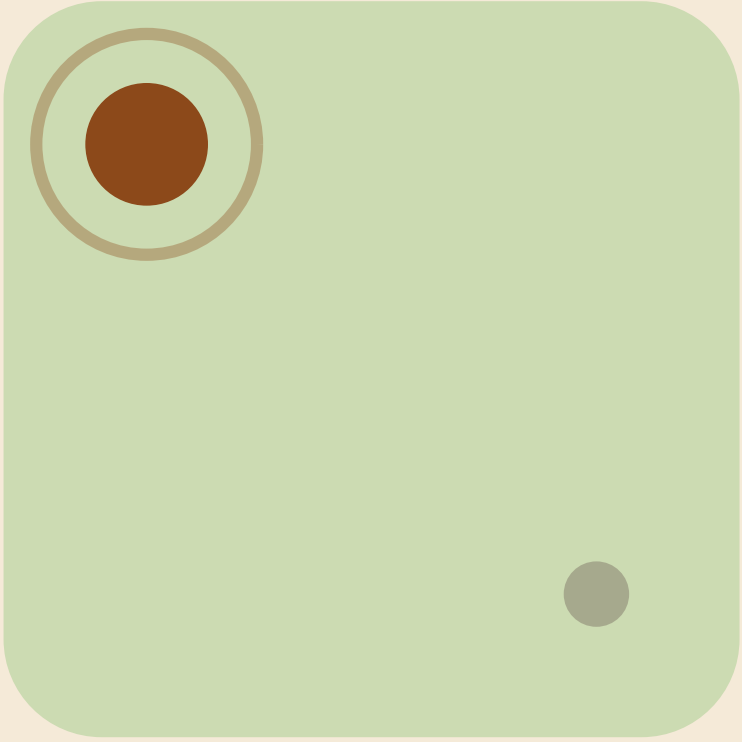
The aquifer under the Delta is dropping.

Farms pump groundwater faster than rain puts it back. Most storm water runs off the fields and down the river.

Most of this land is privately owned. So the fix has to start with landowners.

1 STEP ONE

Find the field's high corner.

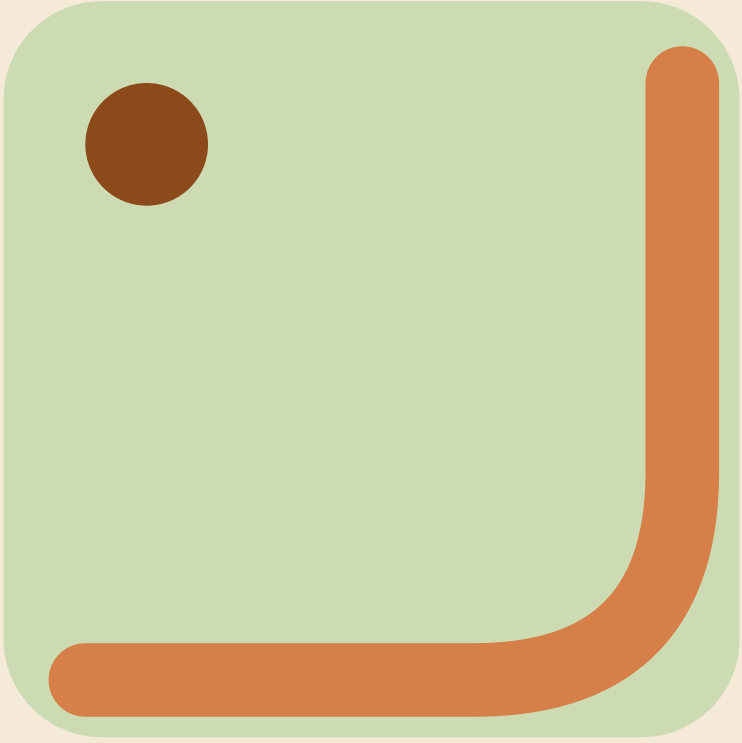


Every field tilts a little. Water always leaves through the low side.

That high spot is where the soil comes from.

2 STEP TWO

Push it to the two low edges.

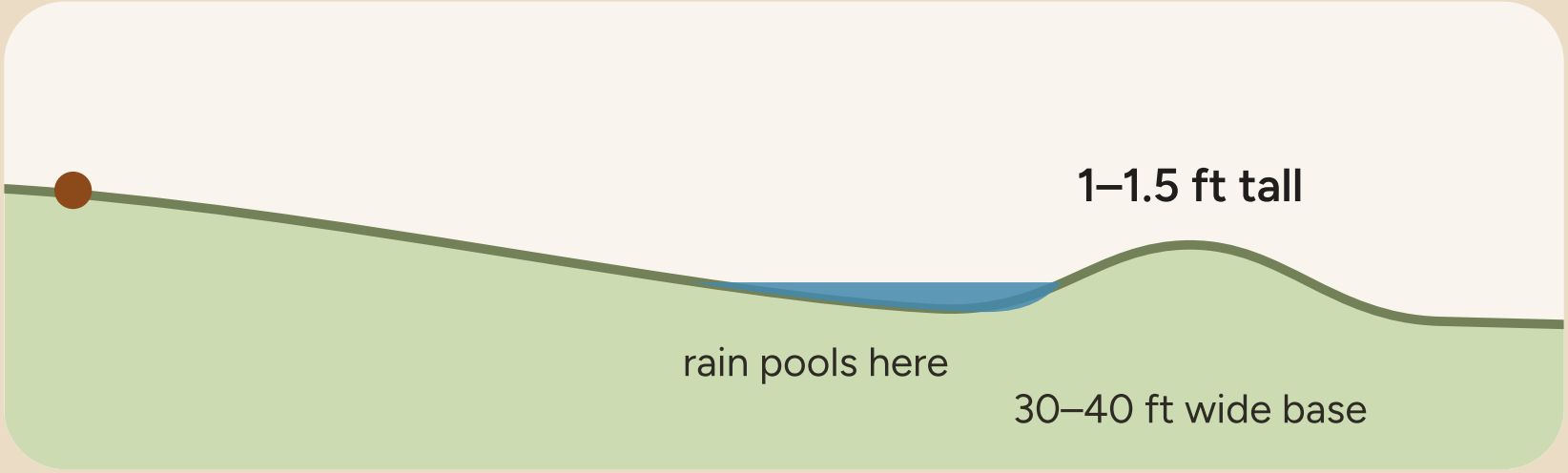


Shape a low, rounded berm along both low sides, with a wide curve at the corner.

A box blade or scraper you already own can do it.

BUILT TO FARM OVER

No sharp edges. Rolling country.



Side slopes 8:1 or flatter

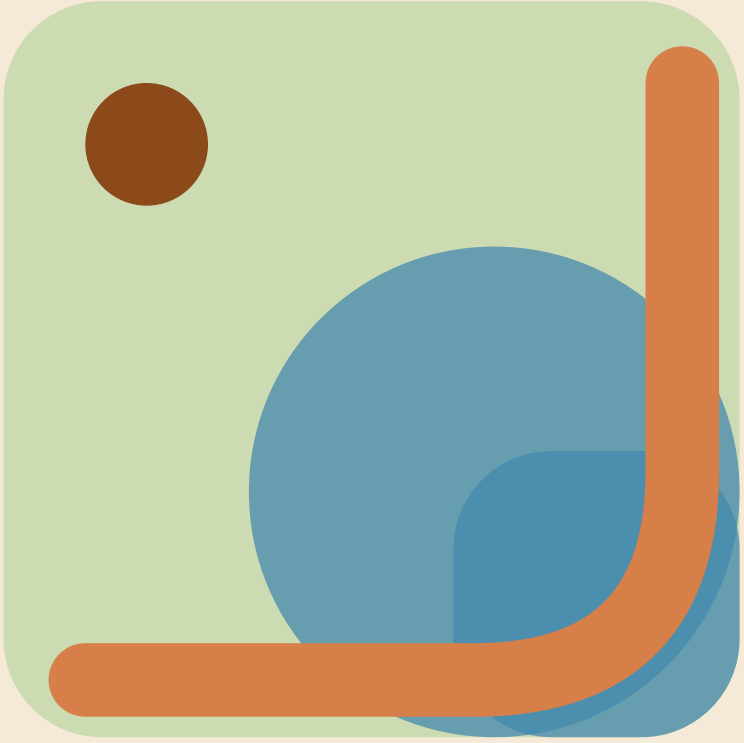
Tractors cross at field speed

Crops grow right on the berm

No ditches, no square corners

3 STEP THREE

Let the rain stay and soak in.

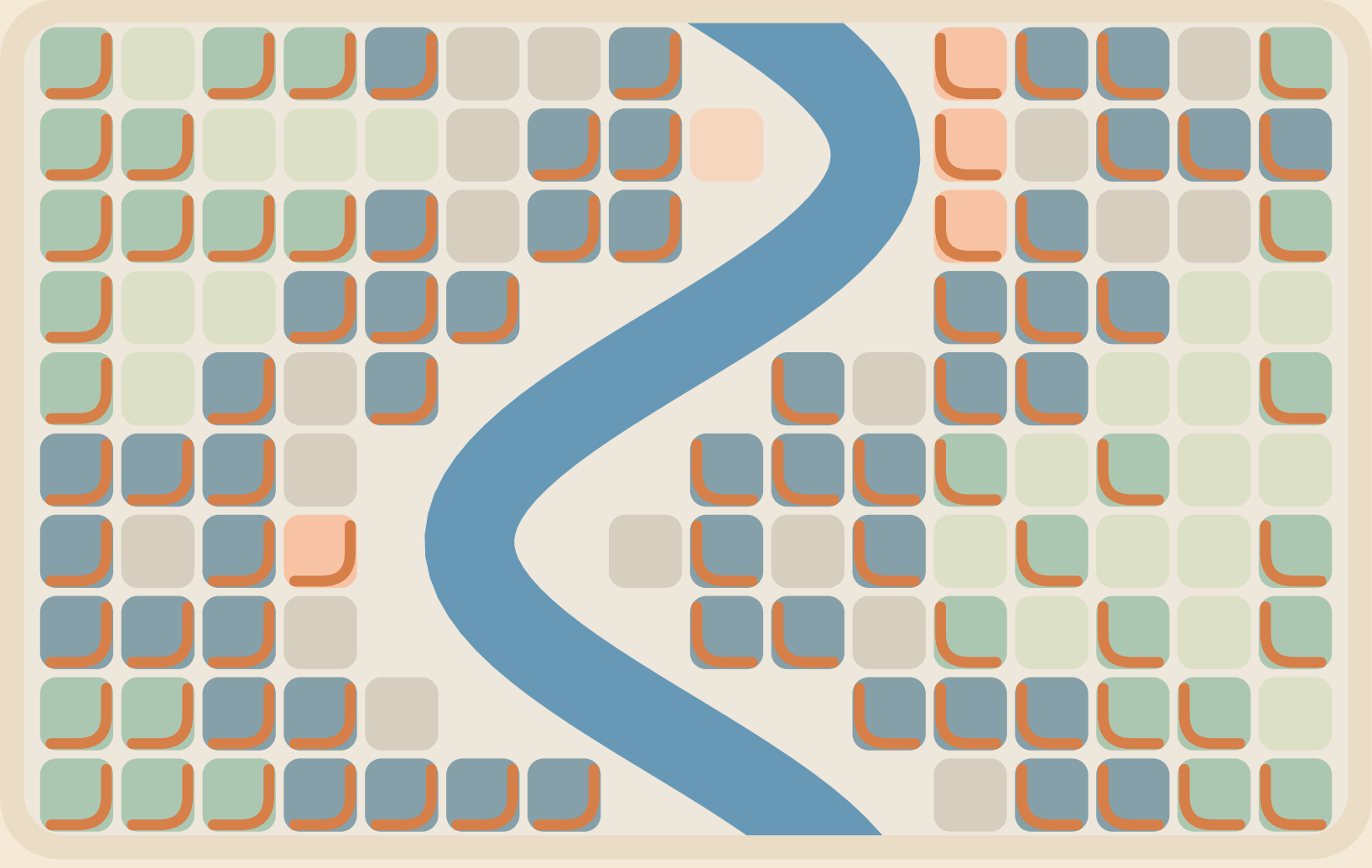


Storm water stops at the berm instead of running to the ditch.

It has days, not minutes, to sink toward the aquifer.

4 STEP FOUR

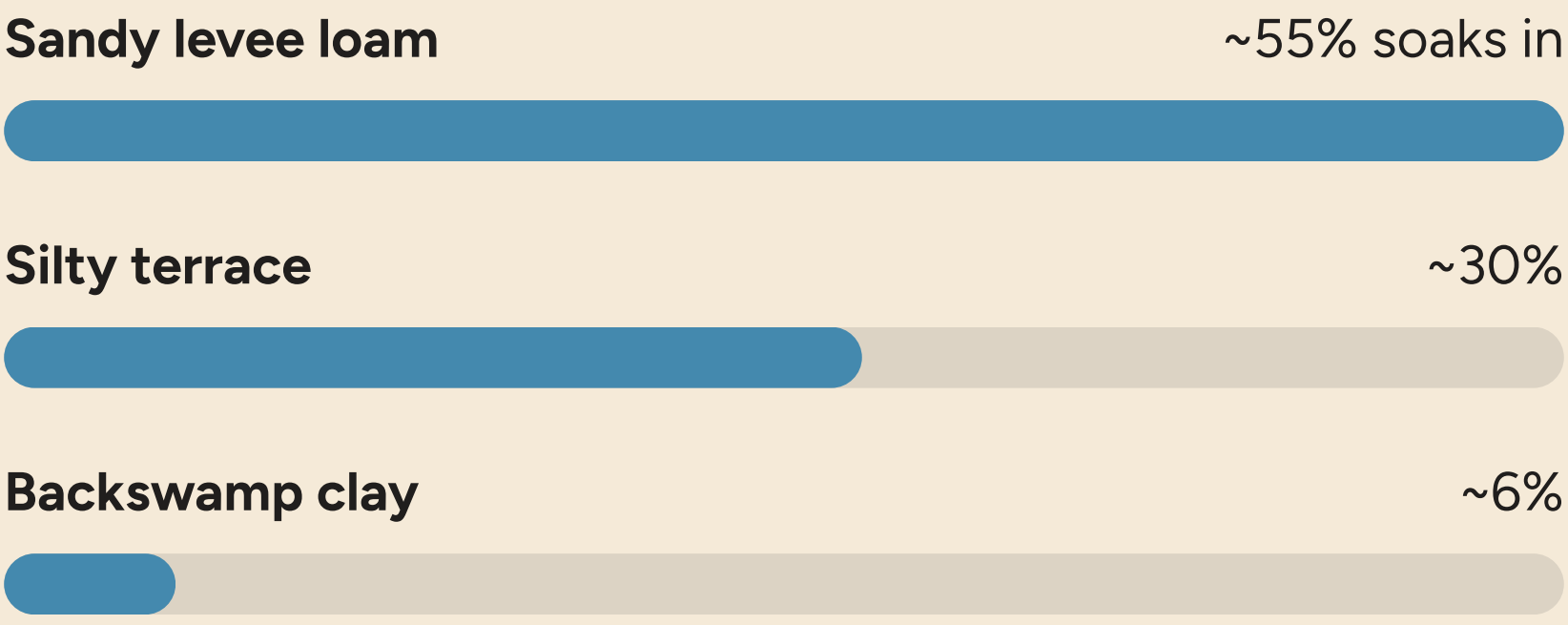
Neighbors join in.



One acre does little. Thousands of sections along the river act like one big sponge.

THE HONEST CATCH

Soil decides where the water goes.



Much of the Delta is heavy clay over a clay cap. Water held there mostly evaporates unless it gets help going down.

Illustrative estimates, not site data.

HOW TO MAKE IT WORK

Four moves for conservation districts

Target

Fund sandy and terrace soils first.

Go through

Pair clay basins with recharge wells or trenches.

Reuse

Pump held water back for irrigation and pump less from the ground.

Pay per acre

Cost-share makes it worth the landowner's time.

YOUR MOVE

The land is ours. So is the fix.

Would you shape your field if a cost-share covered the dirt work?

- Try the interactive map: link in the first comment