



## Operation & Maintenance Plan Watering Facility (Code 614)

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### Expected Lifespan

The minimum expected lifespan of this practice is at least 10 years.

A properly operated and maintained **Watering Facility** is an asset to your property. The purpose of this practice is to provide watering facilities for livestock at selected grazing locations that will protect vegetative cover and provide better grassland management for erosion control. The life of the practice can be assured and usually extended by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance to maintain satisfactory performance. The following are some requirements to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

### Operation and Maintenance

1. During the grazing season, inspect all valves, floats, overflows and drains on a weekly basis. Ensure that all components are working properly and not leaking. Repair damaged components as necessary.
2. Install and maintain fences and other barriers as needed to prevent livestock damage to the system and appurtenances.
3. Maintain stabilized area around the watering facility. Maintain surface treatment for livestock footing. Grade area and add stone or gravel as needed.
4. Maintain a minimum cover over all pipelines and drain lines.
5. Remove any silt and debris that accumulates in the watering facility.
6. Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular or livestock damage to system and appurtenances.

### Operation, Maintenance and Inspection Costs

1. It is estimated that the annual time to routinely inspect and make minor repairs to your Water Facility will be:
  - a. Moving Portable Systems = 2 hours/week
  - b. Inspection = 2 hours/week/unit
  - c. Minor Repairs = 2 hours/week/unit
  - d. Draining & Winter Prep = 2 hours/year/unit
  - e. Major repairs to damage caused by major storm event will require extra time and materials.
2. Most minor repairs can be made by the operator using basic hand tools. However, major repairs to damaged trough, valves and other appurtenances may require hiring a professional experienced in these repairs and improvements or even replacement.
3. Most maintenance, such as grading, mowing, replacement of surface material, etc. can be accomplished using common farm machinery. Occasionally major damage may require heavy construction equipment to make repairs.

## **Specific Site Requirements**