

Watering Facility...a device (tank, trough, or other watertight container) for providing animal access to water.



Watering facility for livestock, photo courtesy USDA –Natural Resources Conservation Service

Purposes

This practice is intended to provide watering facilities for livestock and/or wildlife at selected locations in order to:

Protect and enhance vegetative cover through proper distribution of grazing

- Provide erosion control through better grassland management**
- Protect streams, ponds, and water supplies from contamination by providing alternative access to water**

Benefits

This practice can provide water quality improvements for nearby waterways when livestock use a watering facility as an alternate water source. Such improvements include a reduction in streambank erosion, sedimentation, and bacterial loading to nearby waterways.

Applications

This practice applies to all land uses where there is a need for new or improved watering facilities.

Design and Installation

The trough or tanks should be designed to meet the water requirements of the livestock and/or wildlife, including the storage volume necessary to carry over between periods of replenishment.

The site should be well drained, and areas adjacent to the trough or tank should be protected from trampling with gravel, pavement, or other protective surface.

Automatic water level control and/or overflow facilities should be provided as appropriate. Any valves or pipes should be protected by shields or covers or specifically located to prevent damage by livestock. The trough/tank and outlet pipe(s) should also be protected from freezing and ice damage and should be drained when not in use.

Maintenance

Check for and remove any debris, algae, sludge or other materials in the watering facility which may restrict the inflow or outflow system. Periodically check for and repair any leaks. To ensure proper operation, be sure to maintain the automatic water level device. Maintain erosion protection on adjacent areas, and check to ensure the outlet pipe is freely operating and not causing erosion problems.

Relative Cost

Installation low ●●○○○ high

Maintenance low ●○○○○ high

For Additional Information...

Visit the Indiana NRCS office online at <http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/>, see the Indiana Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) standard for (614) Watering Facility, or contact your local USDA-NRCS office.

Local USDA-NRCS contact information