

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN

WATERING FACILITY

Operator: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____

Purpose:

A properly operated and maintained Watering Facility is an asset to your livestock operation. A watering facility provides an adequate amount of quality drinking water to livestock and/or wildlife, while protecting surface waters. Maintenance of this practice is required for the life span of the practice which is 15 years. The life of the structure is assured and usually increased by carrying out a good operation and maintenance plan.

Perform periodic maintenance and proper operation, including replacement of operational parts, to maintain satisfactory performance of the facility. Complete the following actions to ensure that the practice functions as designed, throughout its life span.

1. During active use, daily monitor on-demand or minimum storage watering facilities and weekly monitor large facilities to ensure an adequate supply of water from the source and/or to identify when supplemental water is required.
2. Check for debris algae, sludge, or other materials and conduct periodic cleaning of facility. Use chemicals such as copper sulfate to prevent moss and algae growth or use biological cleaners such as gold fish. Keep the trough exposed to sunlight by removing tree branches or overhanging limbs, if possible, which will discourage algae growth.
3. Check tanks, troughs and automatic water level devices for leaks and repair as necessary. Ensure the outlet pipe (if installed) is freely operating and not causing erosion problems. Repair when necessary.
4. Periodically check the automatic water level device to ensure proper operation.
5. Periodically inspect the area around the tank and check pads for cracks and/or separations. Repair as needed. When needed, replenish the gravel protection area around the tank to the original depth and grade. Expand or add to the heavy use area protection or add animal walkways to and from the watering facility when vegetation cannot be maintained or erosion becomes evident.

6. When water source is from a spring(s) or stream (gravity flow), ensure the outlet pipe is freely operating and not causing erosion problems.
7. Open and close all hydrants and valves slowly in order to prevent water hammer when filling tanks.
8. Prior to the start of winter, follow manufacturer's written guidance for winter weather protection. Drain troughs not in use during the winter.
9. Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular or livestock damage to the facility.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR INSTALLATION

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE OFFICE FOR ANY ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE YOU NEED TO USE THIS OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR YOUR STRUCTURE.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.