



Purpose:

A properly operated and maintained Watering Facility is an asset to your livestock operation. A watering facility is a permanent device to provide an adequate amount and quality of drinking water for livestock and or wildlife and provide protection to surface waters. The practice must be maintained for the life span of the practice which is 15 years. The life of the structure can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

This facility requires you to perform periodic maintenance and may also require operational items to maintain satisfactory performance. The following actions shall be carried out to insure that the practice functions as intended throughout its life span.

1. Monitor weekly when used by animals to ensure adequate supply of water from source
2. Check for debris algae, sludge, or other materials and schedule for periodic cleaning
3. Check for leaks and repair as necessary
4. If present, periodically check the automatic water level device to insure proper operation
5. Periodically inspect any concrete pads that are beside the tank for cracks and/or separations and make needed repairs. If the heavy use area protection around the tank consists of gravel, periodically check for any loss due to erosion and replenish the gravel to the original depth and grade. Consider expanding or adding heavy use area protection around the watering facility when vegetation cannot be maintained near the waterers.
6. When water source is from springs or a stream (gravity flow), check to ensure the outlet pipe is freely operating and not causing erosion problems.
7. Follow manufacture's written guidance for winter weather protection prior to winter's arrival.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR INSTALLATION

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

New Castle Field Office
(302) 832-3100

Kent Field Office
(302) 741-2600

Sussex Field Office
(302) 856-3990

Landowner Signature: _____ Date: _____

Operator Signature: _____ Date: _____

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