

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**  
**WEST VIRGINIA**  
**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS**  
**WATERING FACILITY**  
**CODE 614**

Landowner/Operator \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ CD \_\_\_\_\_ Farm/Tract No. \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

A properly operated and maintained watering facility is an asset to the farm. This practice was designed, and installed, to provide an adequate amount and quality of drinking water to livestock and/or wildlife. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 20 years. The life of the practice can be assured, and usually increased, by developing and carrying out a systematic operation and maintenance program.

This practice requires periodic O&M to properly manage and keep the system in good repair. Items for consideration are:

- Regularly check for damage to the facility. Check troughs and tanks for leaks, site erosion, and damage to fences, heavy use areas, and appurtenances associated with the watering facility. Repair or replace damaged components, as needed.
- Check the automatic water level device, if present, to ensure proper operation.
- Ensure the outlet pipe, if installed, is freely operating and not causing erosion problems. Repair or replace damaged components promptly.
- Regularly clean the facility.
  - Remove moss, algae growth, and/or sludge. Chemicals, such as copper sulfate, can be used to prevent moss and algae growth. Local rules and regulations are to be followed when using chemicals. Make sure the selected chemicals are safe for animals.
- Maintain the hardened surface radius around the trough. Protect with materials similar to those placed at the time of installation. Expect to add additional material to the area periodically during the life span of the trough.
- Maintain the facility to ensure that there is adequate inflow and outflow.
- Prepare the facility for winter as dictated by the climate. This may include draining supply pipes, emptying tanks, or ensuring that float valves will not be damaged by ice.
  - Maintain, where necessary, coverings and insulation to prevent damage by freezing. Troughs that are not in use during the winter should be drained.
- Open and close all hydrants and valves slowly, in order to prevent water hammer when filling tanks.
- Immediately, repair any vandalism, vehicular or livestock damage to the facility.
- For a portable facility, include the plan for moving the facility and for monitoring/repair of the areas around the facility.

**Additional Operation and Maintenance requirements specific to this plan:**

Inspection Date	Items to be Repaired and Corrective Action Taken	Repair Date
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Contact your local NRCS office for any additional technical assistance you might need for implementation of this O&M plan.

This O&M Plan was discussed and copy provided to the Landowner/Operator.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Responsible NRCS Employee/ Conservation Planner

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Cooperator