

Do You Have Problems With:

- Cows standing and drinking in a dirty stream?
- Cows tearing up the banks of your pond or stream when they get a drink?
- Livestock need to walk a long way to get water?
- Cows only graze around your water tank and leave the rest of the pasture overgrown?

A Watering Facility Can Help.

A watering facility can be a permanent or portable watering trough or a device like a nose pump that lets cows pump water from a stream or pond.



Heavy equipment tire waterer

Benefits of a Watering Facility:

- Improve the health of your livestock by providing clean, safe, dependable drinking water
- Save the time and work of hauling water to animals
- Help you manage your pastures to make them more productive
- Keep livestock out of your pond or stream
- Reduce stream bank erosion caused by livestock



Locate watering facilities in more than one place in a pasture to prevent overuse of one area.

Cost for a watering facility:

The costs for a watering facility will be different depending on what you build and where the water comes from. Some of the costs to think about are:

- Developing a water source such as a spring, well or municipal water
- Piping from the water source to the watering facility
- Water trough or tank
- Protecting the area around the watering facility
- Fencing

Watering Facility

Sources of Water

A watering facility requires that you have a good, clean source of water. Some of the sources to think about are:

- Stream
- Pond
- Well
- Spring
- Public water system

How do I install a watering facility?

The watering facility needs to be placed on a firm foundation and the area around the facility needs to be protected from erosion and over use by livestock.

Pipes will need to be run to the watering facility. For permanent watering facilities, the pipes should be buried so they won't get damaged or freeze. For watering facilities that will be moved, pipes can be laid on the ground out of the way of livestock and equipment. Make sure to drain the pipes before freezing weather.

If the water source is also used for human consumption, it needs to be protected. Things such as check valves, air gaps or anti-siphon devices are needed to prevent contamination of the water source. Check local codes for requirements.

How do I maintain the watering facility?

- Regularly check the flow of water to the trough.
- Look for leaks and fix them right away.
- If you have a float valve check it regularly to make sure it's working.
- Areas around the trough can get wet and muddy. Stop any leaks and cleanup eroded areas.
- Drain and cleanout troughs at least once a year.



Using a farm pond as a source of water



Installation of pipes to a permanent water tank



Temporary water lines laid on the ground

Watering Facility

Different types of watering facilities to consider



Heavy duty plastic water trough



Freeze proof waterer



Heavy equipment tire water trough



Permanent concrete water trough



Nose Pump



Steel tank water trough

SMALL SCALE SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR FARM

Technical Help Is Available

Your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office has experienced conservationists that can help you install a watering facility. They can also help you develop a Conservation Plan to solve other problems you have identified on your farm.

There is no charge for our assistance. Simply call your local office at the number listed below to set up an appointment and we will come to your farm.

You may also be eligible to receive financial assistance, through a state or federal program. Your NRCS office will explain any programs that are available so you can make the best decision for your operation. All NRCS programs and services are voluntary.



Helping People Help the Land

For More Information Contact the:

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial 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 the USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.