



Operation and Maintenance



Operation and Maintenance

- A properly operated and maintained watering facility is a great asset to a farm.



- Estimated life span of a watering facility is at least 10 years. The full life of the facility can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a systematic operation and maintenance program.



Think we need to do a little
maintenance?

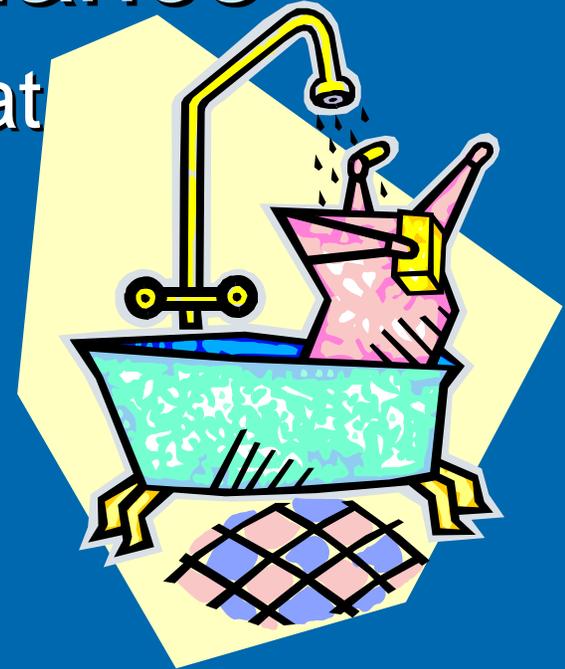
Periodic Maintenance

- Refresh the 10' gravel protection as needed.
- Maintain positive drainage away from the trough.

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Periodic Maintenance

- Drain and clean the trough at least once a year.



- If the trough has an overflow pipe, check for any obstructions at the outlet.

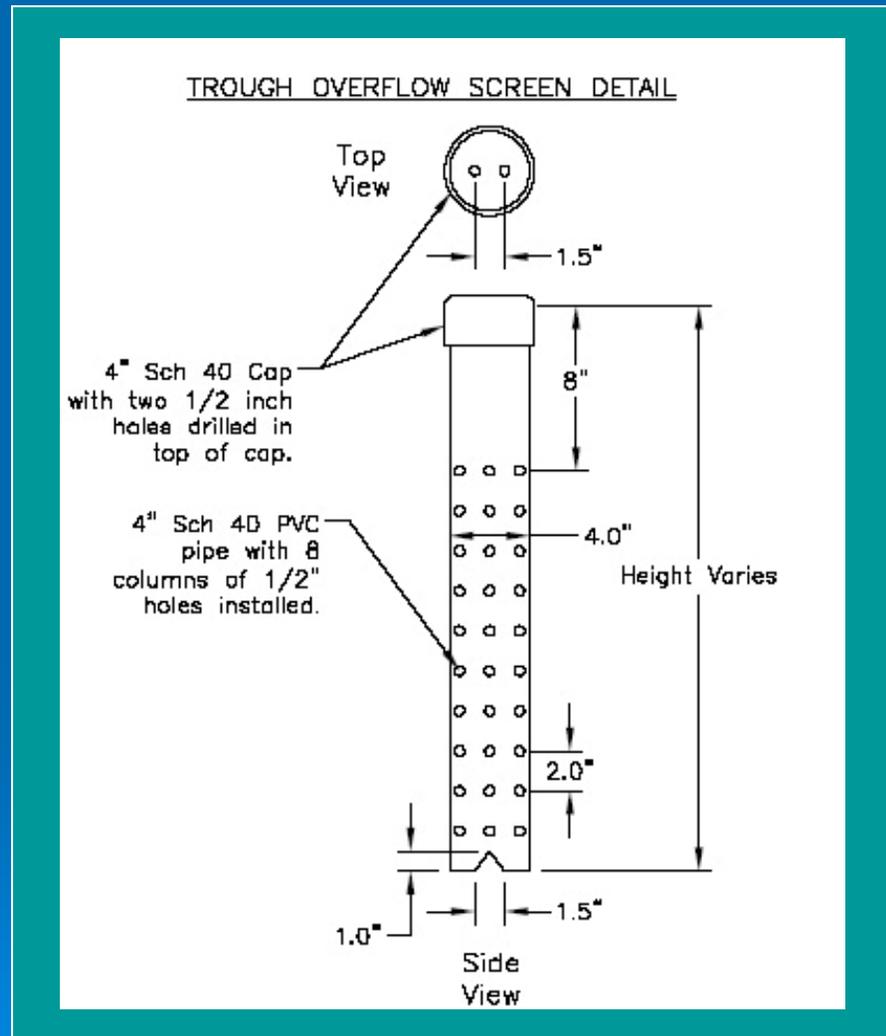


Periodic Maintenance

- Check the trash rack in the trough.
 - Repair or replace it if needed.
 - Clean leaves and other trash from the holes in the trash rack as needed.



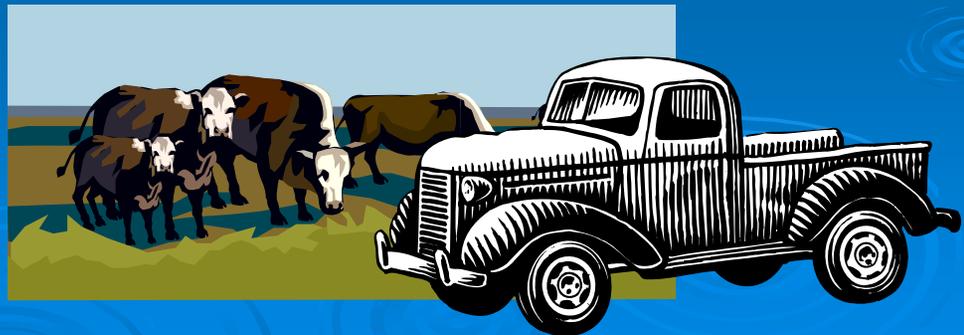
Common Trash Rack Design



Periodic Maintenance

- Troughs should be visually inspected every few days to insure that no problems go unnoticed.

This can be accomplished by the landowner driving by the fountain when checking on the livestock. Placing the fountain near a farm road or lane will also help in this.

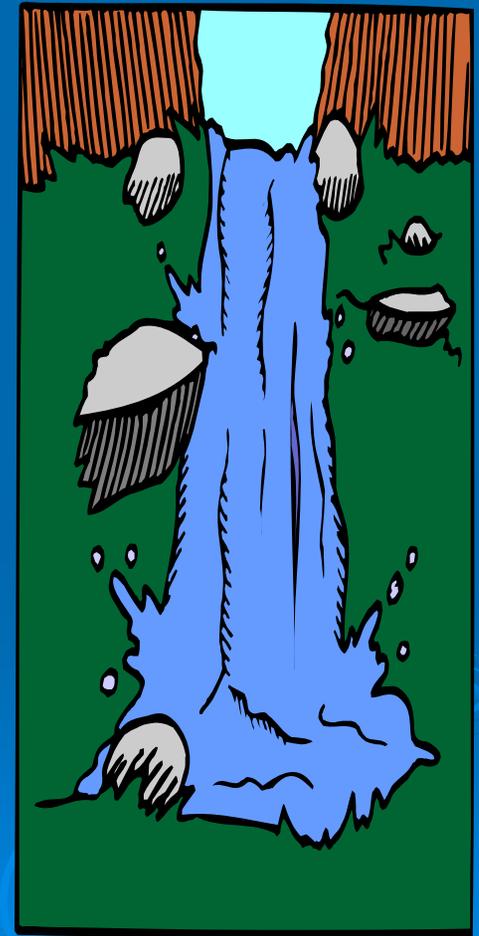


Periodic Operation

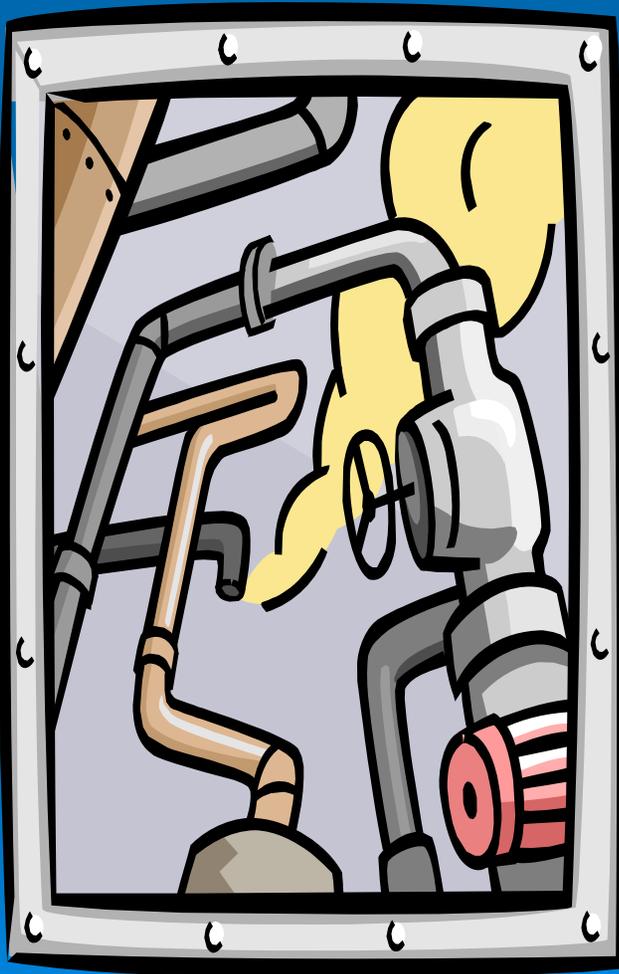
➤ Gravity systems.

When a gravity feed trough will not be used for a period of time, recommend these actions to the Landowner.

- Remove the stand pipe and allow the water to flow through the trough when not actively in use.
- In winter, place a wood post (not a treated post) or a log in the trough to allow for freeze/thaw expansion and contraction.



Periodic Operation



➤ Pressure systems.

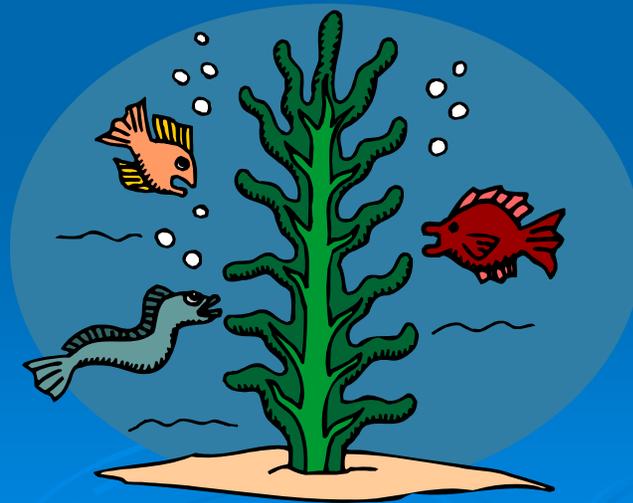
- When not in use, turn off water to trough and bleed the pipeline from the valve to the trough.
- Drain trough to prevent stagnant water from setting in trough.
- Check and clean the float valve in the trough before refilling.

Remind landowners to pay attention to any trough with a float valve on a regular basis!



Algae Control

- In the summer months algae can clog the screens of even the best designed trash racks. Here are some suggestions to reduce the algae bloom in an open trough.



➤ Chemical compounds



Please use restraint, follow all directions and all laws must be followed. (we wouldn't want any sick livestock)

Scrap copper pipes

- (must be sanded every few weeks)

➤ Shade trough in some manor.

- Not used very often.

➤ Barley straw.

- Plastic balls are available that will contain the straw while floating in the trough.



And last but not least
(and my personal favorite)...



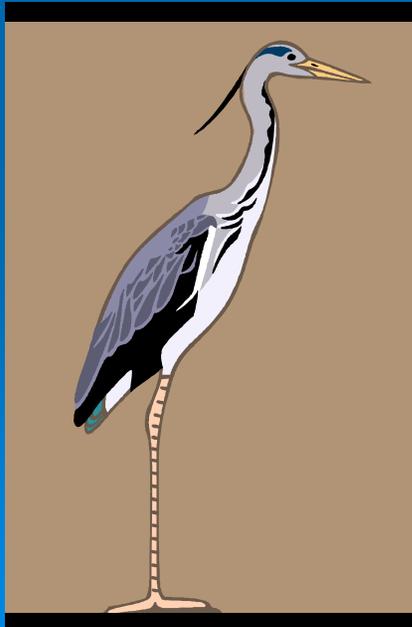


Goldfish



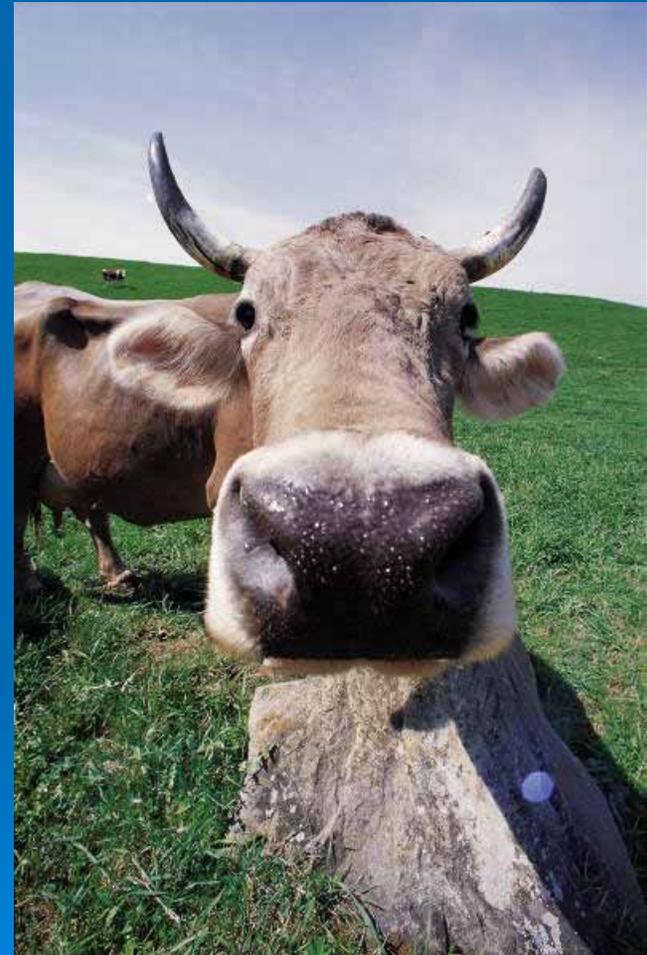
Algae Control

- Four or five goldfish work very well as long as you give them a few concrete blocks to use for shade. The blocks also give them a place to hide from herons and raccoons.



Pipeline Maintenance

- Pipelines are generally very forgiving on maintenance.
- All valves should be operated semiannually.
- Gravity pipelines should be flushed out twice a year.
- Prevent the livestock from using the pipe ditch as a walkway.



Pipeline O & M

- Avoid crossing the pipeline in wet or soft areas with equipment.



- Drain pipelines not in use. Bleeder valves should be installed during construction for this purpose.

By teaching the landowner how to operate and maintain their watering facility correctly it will serve their need for years to come.

