



Conservation Practice Overview

August 2023

Watering Facility (Code 614)

A watering facility is a means of providing drinking water to livestock or wildlife.

Practice Information

A watering facility is used to provide livestock and/or wildlife with drinking water to meet their daily needs. Proper location of a trough improves animal distribution and vegetation associated with the watering facility. A watering facility is sometimes installed to keep livestock out of streams and other surface water areas where water quality is a concern.



This practice applies to all land uses where there is a need for a watering facility for livestock and/or wildlife, where there is a source of water that is adequate in quantity and quality, and where soils and topography are suitable for a facility.

The water source may be a well, spring, stream, pond, municipal water supply, or other source, including water hauled from offsite, in some situations. A tank can be installed to store water to supply the trough. A watering ramp can be used to provide controlled access to a pond or stream.

This practice has a minimum expected life of 10 years. Operation and maintenance of the watering facility includes cleaning, repair or replacement of damaged components, ensuring adequate inflow and outflow, and winterizing. If a portable trough is used, operation and maintenance includes moving the trough and monitoring the condition of the associated vegetation.

Common Associated Practices

Watering Facility is commonly used with other NRCS Conservation Practice Standards such as Water Well (Code 642), Livestock Pipeline (Code 516), Spring Development (Code 574), Fence (Code 382), Trails and Walkways (Code 575), Pond (Code 378), Heavy Use Area Protection (Code 561), and Prescribed Grazing (Code 528).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.