



## Conservation Practice Overview

October 2020

### Water Well (Code 642)

A hole drilled, dug, driven, bored, jetted, or otherwise constructed into an aquifer for agricultural water supply.

### Practice Information

This practice is used to provide—

- Adequate livestock water quality and quantity.
- Water for terrestrial wildlife.
- Irrigation water.

This practice requires appropriate design and installation to function properly. If practicable, locate wells on higher ground and up-gradient from potential surface and subsurface contamination or pollution and areas subject to flooding. Evaluate the potential for adverse interference with existing nearby production wells during planning. Other concerns that should be considered in planning include the potential for ground water overdraft; the long-term safe yield of the aquifer and potential effects of installation; operation of the well on cultural, historical, archaeological, or scientific resources at or near the site; and setback zones and prohibitions. Wells must be drilled and installed by a licensed water well driller, according to State and local laws.

Operation and maintenance of a water well includes recordkeeping of identified problems, corrective actions taken, date, and specific capacity (yield per unit drawdown) of the water well before and after corrective actions were taken. The owner must remedy unacceptable conditions in a timely manner.

### Common Associated Practices

Once a well has been installed, a distribution system, watering system, and/or irrigation system is usually needed.

NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Water Well (Code 642) is commonly applied with other conservation practices such as NRCS CPSs Pumping Plant (Code 533), Livestock Pipeline (Code 516), Watering Facility (Code 614), and Irrigation Pipeline (Code 430).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.

