



Small Scale Solutions for your Farm

Watering Facility



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

Purposes and Benefits of 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



Heavy equipment tire waterer

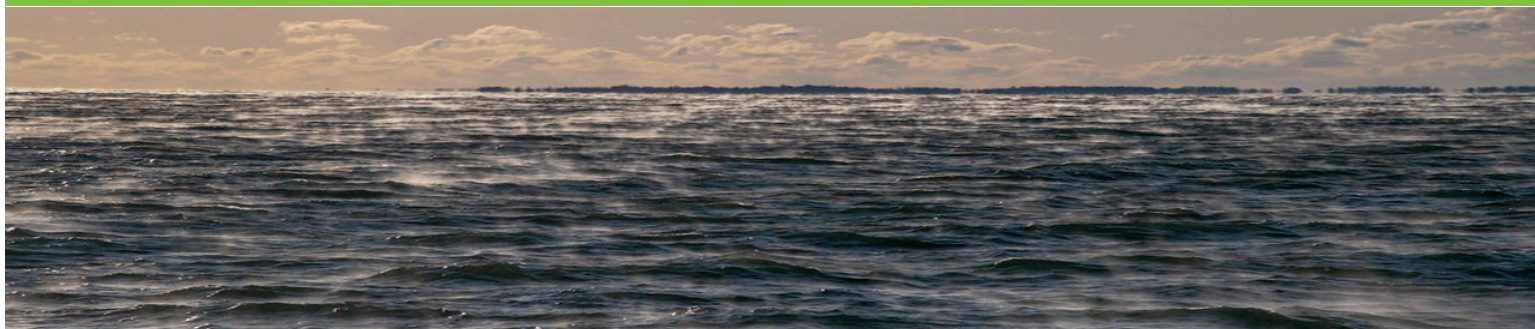


Locate watering facilities in more than one place in a pasture to prevent overuse of one area.



Permanent concrete water trough





Sources of Water

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

How Do I Maintain a Watering Facility?

- Regularly check the flow of water to the trough.
- Look for leaks and fix them right-a-way.
- 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.

Associated Costs

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



Heavy equipment tire water trough

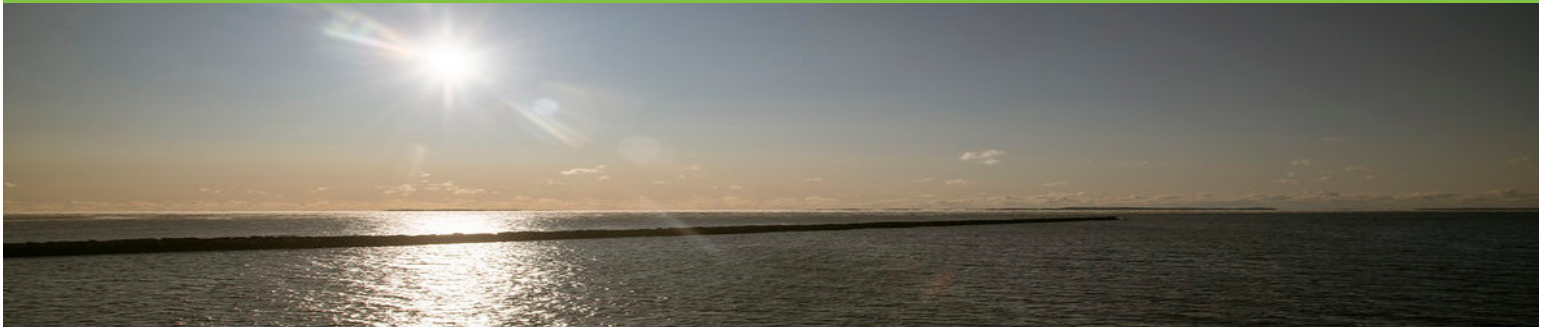


Heavy duty plastic water trough



Freeze proof waterer





Technical and Financial Help Is Available

Whether you measure your farm in terms of feet or acres, your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office has experienced conservationists that can help you develop a Conservation Plan to conserve, maintain, and restore the natural resources on your land and improve the long-term health of your operation.

There is no charge for our assistance. Simply contact your local office to set up an appointment. You may also be eligible to receive financial assistance. 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.

For More Information

Visit the [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) or visit farmers.gov/service-locator to find your local NRCS office. You can also check with your local USDA Service Center, then make an appointment to determine next steps for your conservation goals.

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NRCS conservationist assisting small scale farmer with developing a customized conservation plan.

