

# AG. WATER QUALITY ACT



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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

FUNDING ASSISTANCE

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

## LIMITING ACCESS TO SURFACE WATER SOURCES

### LIVESTOCK BMP #4



Photo courtesy of University of Kentucky Agriculture Extension

#### Description:

Manage livestock around bodies of water or streams through fencing, alternative water systems, limited access points and stream crossing to protect water quality.

#### AWQA Minimum Requirements:

Carefully manage livestock around bodies of water or streams where their presence may seriously contribute to nonpoint source pollution. Adequate vegetative cover should be maintained on the land area affected by livestock along the stream edge. Livestock activities are acceptable in these areas. Fencing of these areas will not be required; however, the selection and management of vegetation must be sufficient to adequately control or significantly abate potential soil erosion and provide adequate filtering and uptake benefits from the affected areas. If vegetation is not capable of withstanding grazing pressure, then livestock should be excluded except at designated crossing areas and watering sites. Temporary fence

may be used to exclude livestock from zones that may be grazed temporarily while maintaining the effectiveness of the practice.

#### Recommendations:

Select and manage vegetation to control soil erosion. Use vegetation to provide stormwater filtering and uptake benefits from the affected areas. Exclude livestock except at designated crossing areas and watering sites if vegetation is not capable of withstanding grazing pressure. Use temporary fence to exclude livestock for pasture recovery in riparian areas. Consider slopes and stream characteristics when choosing locations for stream crossings and access points.

#### Technical References

##### University Publications

- [ID-170 Drinking Water Quality Guidelines for Cattle](#)
- [AEN 98 Alternative Water Source: Developing Springs for Livestock](#)
- [AEN-101 Stream Crossings for Cattle](#)
- [ID-236 Providing Water for Beef Cattle in Rotational Grazing Systems](#)
- [AEN-133 Tire Tanks for Watering Livestock](#)

##### USDA/NRCS Publications

- [Practice Code 382 Fence](#)
- [Practice Code 472 Access Control](#)
- [Practice Code 578 Stream Crossing](#)
- [Practice Code 614 Watering Facility](#)

#### Funding Assistance Options

##### State Cost Share

- See your local Conservation District to [apply](#).

##### Kentucky Ag. Development Fund (KADB/KAFC)

- Select from available program options [here](#).

##### NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Select from available program options [here](#).

#### Important Considerations

Water Quality Benefit (🌊-🌊🌊🌊): 🌊🌊  
(KEY: 🌊=good, 🌊🌊🌊=best: see [STEPL Model](#))

##### Wildlife Benefits

- Contact the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife's [Habitat Improvement Program](#) on how to improve wildlife habitat with select BMPs (1-800-858-1549).