

# 10 Minute Supervisor Trainings



September 2022

## **WATERING FACILITIES**

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An eligible practice commonly requested under state cost share is the watering facility. This practice is to be used only when additional watering facilities will aid in reducing soil erosion by limiting livestock travel paths, improving water quality by better distributing livestock grazing in fields or by removing livestock from a water source such as a stream, pond, sinkhole, or spring.

Simplified ways that water facilities can be installed:

- When you are fencing off another water source such as a stream or pond which limits livestock access to a viable water source.
- When rotational grazing is to be used to manage pastureland for livestock requiring additional water sources. Prescribed grazing practice 528 must also be tied to this type of practice to manage pasture height and quality. This requires a minimum of 3 separate paddocks for grazing to qualify.

Water source selection for facilities:

- The most cost-effective way of acquiring a water source will be implemented in these practices.
- If connecting to an existing on-farm well is more cost efficient than using a city or county source, then that option will be utilized. However, in most cases, connecting to a landowner's existing meter is the least expensive method
- Meter bases and connections are not covered under state cost share
- In some cases, spring development may be a viable option for water access. This can be determined by NRCS or conservation district representatives.

## Requirements/Regulations:

- This practice carries a life span of 20 years
- SCS will not pay for digging ponds
- A minimum of a 25-gallon capacity waterer is required. Any type of ball waterer with less than the 25-gallon capacity will not meet criteria
- Livestock watering facilities cannot be located less than 800 ft. apart in a single pasture unless it is located in an adjoining pasture fence line

Watering facilities are a component not a practice. In cases where fencing livestock from water sources, the fencing component will also be added and cost shared on. There is a \$20,000 yearly cost share maximum.

Conservation districts should focus promotion of this SCS component toward landowners who own acreage in watersheds with streams. These do not necessarily need to be blue line, but any running water sources that livestock have access to and could be excluded from.

The watering facilities could also be enticing for any landowners that have large fields that could be divided for rotational grazing practices.

Since fencing is a component included with water systems, this might also be utilized to help landowners with poor quality fencing near waterways, or those interested in preventing livestock from accessing ponds that have been degraded.

## More information online

All BMPs the Kentucky Ag Water Quality Authority has approved: <https://eec.ky.gov/Natural-Resources/Conservation/Pages/Best-Management-Practices.aspx>

Kentucky Cooperative Extension's Agriculture and Natural Resources publications: <https://anr.ca.uky.edu/anr-publications>

NRCS's Field Office Technical Guide: <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/>