

WATERING FACILITY (CODE 614)

DESCRIPTION

A trough or tank with needed devices for water control and/or excess water disposal installed to provide drinking water for livestock in order to improve water quality or stop erosion.

PURPOSE

To provide watering facilities which will bring about the desired protection of vegetative cover to prevent erosion and pollutants, including nutrients, sediment, and animal wastes, from reaching the waters of the State. The primary purpose is not to provide livestock water, but to protect water quality, by excluding livestock from waters of the State.

CONDITION

Apply this practice to provide livestock watering facilities supplied by a spring, reservoir, well, or other source at locations which will achieve erosion control and water quality benefits.

POLICIES

1. A minimum of **fifteen (15)** animal units must regularly use or occupy the area being addressed, and cost-share funds will be based on applicable flat rates and project limits. Operations with **one (1) to less than fifteen (15)** animal units (AU) may be eligible based on the animal unit pro-rated cost-eligibility formulas. (SECTION III, *Water quality Project Application Instructions*, #44B).
2. Cost-sharing **is authorized** for the following:
 - a. The construction or deepening of wells or the development of springs or seeps to provide water for troughs or tanks. This includes the well permit and the well pipe casing or pipelines associated with the installation of the trough. List Water Well (Code 642) as a separate BMP on the Water Quality Project form.
 - b. Permanent Fencing (Code 382) to protect water quality and/or the water body banks and beds from damage by domestic livestock. This should be listed as a separate BMP on the Water Quality Project form.
 - c. Watering facilities and Livestock fencing (perimeter and interior fencing) as part of a rotational grazing system. Refer to the watering facility chart below for the maximum number of watering facilities/hydrants are eligible for cost-share, based on the ratio of animal units to pasture acres.
3. This practice is eligible for cost-share provided it is part of a rotational grazing system in which **50% or more of the livestock forage coming from pasture grazing during the growing season**. A Grazing Management Plan meeting NRCS standards and specifications for Prescribed Grazing (528) must be included with the application. This also includes a summary of the animal unit (AU) calculation; and map labeling pastures, all existing practices and/or proposed practices; and a cover sheet of the grazing plan should be signed by the Operator and District Conservationist or planner with Job Approval Authority (JAA).

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The pasture will be subject to an On-Farm Status Review every 2 years during the life maintenance to monitor pasture condition. A Pasture Condition Score (PCS) of less than 30 is considered unsatisfactory and must be addressed by the applicant.

4. Cost-sharing ***is not authorized*** for the following:
 - a. Pipes installed in wells (other than casing), pumps, pumping equipment, dry wells.
 - b. Electrical components, including solar panels.
 - c. An installation which is primarily for recreation, wildlife, dry lot feeding, corrals, or barns.
 - d. An installation which would make it possible to graze crop residues, field borders, nor temporary or supplemental pasture crops.
 - e. An installation on land where the primary use is not for grazing purposes.
 - f. Providing water for the farm or ranch headquarters.
 - g. Ram pumps and their delivery systems.
 - h. Portable troughs for multiple paddocks.
5. Wells must be provided with pumping equipment (except for artesian wells) and adequate storage facilities.
6. Follow the chart below for the maximum number of watering facilities/hydrants based on the ratio of animal units to pasture acres. Please provide pasture acres in box 42 of the MACS application form.

Pasture Acres @ Farm	1-14	15-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-over
Animal Units							
1-14	1	1	1	2	2	2	3
15-30	1	2	2	2	2	3	3
31-50		2	2	2	3	3	3
51-75			2	3	3	3	4
76-100				3	3	4	4
101-150					4	4	4
151-200						4	5
over-200							5

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7. If the applicant is certain to increase her or his animal capacity within the next six months, ***and*** if the applicant will document that fact in writing to the Department's satisfaction, cost-share may be approved based on the total new animal capacity on the farm. The SCD must document the animal capacity increase on the Certificate of Imminent Start-up or Expansion form (SECTION III, #19) and submit this form with the MACS Water Quality Project form. The department will not process the MACS Claim for Payment until the SCD certifies in writing that the expansion has occurred ***and*** that the additional or new animals have been placed on the farm.
8. NRCS Standards and Specifications for Watering Facility (Code 614) shall be followed when applying this practice.
9. This practice must be properly maintained for a minimum of ten (10) years. The applicant agrees to provide all equipment, labor and materials to meet this requirement.
10. The applicant and the farm's Nutrient Management Plan must be in compliance with Maryland's Nutrient Management regulations (COMAR 15.20.08) at the time of Application. No Applications will be approved without a Nutrient Management Plan Certification Form submitted with the Application (SECTION III, #30).

COST-SHARE RATE

The State cost-share payment, alone or when combined with any other cost-share program, shall not exceed 87.5% of the total eligible cost, not to exceed \$150,000 per project.

ATTACHMENTS

Applicant(s) with an outstanding Unsatisfactory On-Farm Status Review of BMP Maintenance and Use of previous project(s) may be ineligible for MACS Cost-Share funding. When a previous project expires with outstanding unsatisfactory status, the applicant is ineligible for any future MACS funding.

The following items are needed:

1. A copy of a recorded deed(s) for the parcel(s) where the BMP is located. If the current, appropriate deed is already on file in the MACS Office, then record both the agreement number of the file where the deed is kept and the liber/folio numbers in the General Comments section of the application.
2. A copy of the Real Property Data Search page from the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation's website (www.dat.maryland.gov) indicating the Maryland Property View Account ID Number and owner information.
3. An aerial photograph indicating the property lines as well as all existing and proposed BMPs.
4. A plan view sketch graphically demonstrating the location, layout and details of the proposed BMP, existing practices, and waters of the State (streams, ponds, wetlands).
5. Certificate of Imminent Start-up or Expansion form (SECTION III, #19) if applicable.
6. Nutrient Management Plan Certification Form shall be submitted with the Application (SECTION III, #30).
7. An approved and complete Grazing Management Plan when applying for a watering facility as part of a rotational grazing system.