



Small Scale Solutions for your Farm

Spring Development



Do You Have Problems with:

- Seeps or wet areas in your pasture
- Cattle knee deep in mud while trying to drink out of a spring
- Sufficient drinking water supplies for your livestock
- Getting water to remote areas of your fields, where electricity is not available

Springs or seeps can be developed to provide clean drinking water for livestock.



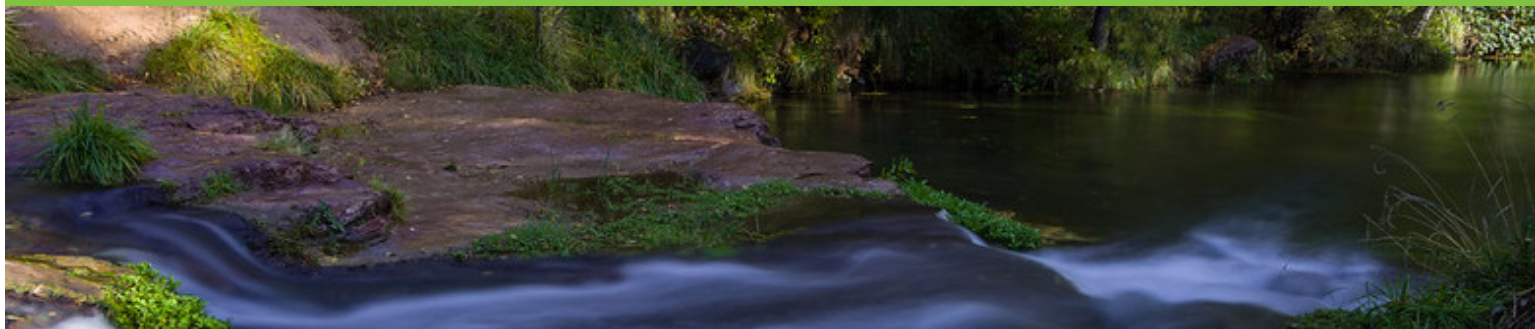
A spring can be developed to supply good clean water to livestock

Purposes and Benefits of Spring Development

- A clean, free source of water
- Pumps and electricity are usually not needed
- Doesn't freeze in the winter
- Source of water for more than one spot
- Water is cool in the summer and warm in the winter, which will encourage cattle to drink more water.
- Good water distributions improves grazing and animal health
- Even a small spring flowing all the time can provide a lot of water. For example, a spring flowing at 1/2 gallon per minute yields 720 gallons in a day. With a tank for storage, this could easily provide drinking water for 10 or more beef cows.

Guidance documents lack the force and effect of law, unless expressly authorized by statute or incorporated into a contract. USDA may not cite, use, or rely on any guidance that is not available through their guidance portal, except to establish historical facts.





How to Maintain the Practice:

Seeps are easy to maintain.

- Keep livestock and farm equipment off the area around the spring development.
- Divert surface water away from the spring box. Surface water usually has sediments and could contaminate the spring.
- Clean the settling basin out once or twice a year.
- Check for leaks in pipes and the spring box.
- Check the overflow pipe to make sure it is not clogged.

Associated Costs

Spring development costs are relatively inexpensive compared to water wells or ponds.

Pumps and electricity are usually not required. Some of the costs for developing a spring are:

- Digging with a backhoe
- Gravel
- Pipe
- Spring box



A spring development can supply water to more than one pasture



Developing a spring

Guidance documents lack the force and effect of law, unless expressly authorized by statute or incorporated into a contract. USDA may not cite, use, or rely on any guidance that is not available through their guidance portal, except to establish historical facts.





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.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.



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

Guidance documents lack the force and effect of law, unless expressly authorized by statute or incorporated into a contract. USDA may not cite, use, or rely on any guidance that is not available through their guidance portal, except to establish historical facts.

