Water Troughs

Objective

To facilitate the installation of a network of livestock drinking points that will offer multiple benefits for livestock management and watercourse protection by installing water troughs.

Background

Having a well installed water supply and storage system is vital for appropriate livestock management on scored fields. They provide alternative drinking points to natural water sources which can become damaged if overused by stock. They can be strategically installed to encourage grazing in specific areas of a plot. Water troughs are an integral part of this system.

Site Suitability

- This action can only be selected on parcels with an Eligible hectare > 0.
- This action is available on CP parcels only that will be claimed by the participant for the remainder of the ACRES contract.
- This action can only be selected on fields that have a scorecard submitted and is available on any scorecard.
- Troughs should be installed at a location where they provide a direct or indirect benefit to the grazing of a scored field or protection of a water course.
- Troughs should be located away from wet or waterlogged ground which is easily poached or eroded.
- Water troughs must be located at least 20 metres from a OSI Waterline or Single Stream Line identified on GLAM map.
- Water troughs must not be located within sensitive habitats (e.g., deep peat, sphagnum lawns or mature heather) to ensure that the trough location doesn't result in additional trafficking in these areas.
- Water troughs should not be installed beside gateways or in field corners, the ideal location is midway along the longest side of the field.
- A trough requiring tractor access for installation (e.g. concrete troughs) must not be located where there is a risk of damage to habitats and/or archaeology on the route to the proposed site.
- Water Troughs should not be placed on or within close proximity to an archaeological monument. Water troughs must not be located at a site which would increase livestock tracking over archaeological monuments. Ongoing monitoring will be required to ensure that archaeological monuments are not impacted upon.

Requirements

1. The location of the water trough must be identified and marked on the map submitted.
2. Each water trough applied for is only eligible for one NPI payment and once claimed must be retained for the remainder of the ACRES contract.
3. Trough must have equivalent to or larger capacity than 318 litres.

4. All troughs must be purchased new and made from either precast concrete or PVC plastic with a ballcock installed.
5. Water troughs must be located at least 20 metres from the top of the bank on watercourses identified as OSI Waterline or Single Stream line on GLAM.
6. Troughs must not be home-made or permanently built on a concrete foundation using blocks etc. (see Rainwater catcher NPI).
7. Water troughs must be fully functional and connected to a piped supply or an adequate rainwater harvesting system. It is permitted to turn off the supply of water when animals are not present in the field.
8. Multiple troughs may be installed in a single field to increase water storage capacity and to facilitate rotational grazing systems.

Additional Guidance

- Drinking troughs should sit on a solid (e.g. gravel chip), level surface in an accessible location.
- Troughs should not leak or overflow.
- If installing on wet ground is unavoidable, a gravel base and hardcore of gravel should be laid down up to 2m on the main accessible sides.
- Concrete troughs or large plastic may be more suitable for central locations in a field where the risk of livestock tipping over the trough is greater. Small plastic troughs are best restricted to field boundaries.
- Ballcocks should be set at the correct height to prevent overfilling and use a stop valve to shut off the water supply when stock are not in the field.
- If old water facilities (old troughs/baths etc.) are not going to be used for additional water supply, then they should be removed from the field.
- Plastic troughs should have several large stones laid in the bottom to avoid wind-blow when empty.
- Floats (rubber balls) can help prevent the freezing over of water in cold conditions.