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SCHOOL TRUST LAND WATER DEVELOPMENTS

An essential item for grazing livestock on pastureland is to provide an ample water supply. The following will help you with the process for developing water on school lands.

First, check with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for possible cost share assistance programs.

Next a water development permit must be obtained from the Department of Trust Lands prior to construction.

Even if you don't receive cost share funding, you will want to work with NRCS on engineering and location assistance for water developments prior to construction because the Department of Trust Lands permit requires all water developments to be built to NRCS specifications.

The ND Department of Trust Lands cost share (outside the Badlands area) works like this:

Up to 50% of the development cost is eligible for a rent credit to a maximum of \$2,100/dugout, \$2,520/dam, and \$4,015/well (well hole and casing only). Livestock water pipelines are also approved on school land but rarely receive any cost share assistance from the Department of Trust Lands because the water source is usually not located on school land. We strongly urge all livestock water pipelines be buried with a pipeline trencher to minimize surface disturbance.

The remaining project costs, less any cost-share assistance from other sources, is the lessee's expense and will be depreciated in equal annual installments over a ten-year term, with a maximum of \$2,100/dugout, \$2,520/dam, \$4,015/well (well hole and casing only). If a lease changes hands at auction, the new lessee is required to pay the previous lessee any remaining undepreciated costs. None of the amount depreciated will be paid in any form by the Department of Trust Lands. The lessee is responsible for furnishing the Department of Trust Lands with an itemized statement of the actual costs, plus copies of all supporting documentation which may be requested by the Department of Trust Lands before any rent credit or depreciation schedule is effective.

Dugouts, dams, buried pipelines and wells (well hole and casing only) are considered permanent improvements and are the property of the State. Submersible pumps, windmills, solar panels, and water tanks are considered nonpermanent improvements and as stated in the lease document, can be removed by the lessee within 120 days of lease expiration. Obtaining a permit for livestock water development is not difficult but some advance planning is necessary. It generally takes a week to 10 days to complete the process from beginning to end. The Livestock Water Development Permit application is on-line and can be completed at:

<https://www.land.nd.gov/SurfaceLeasing/WaterApplication>

For more information regarding this topic, call (701) 328-2800.