

FACT SHEET

Gary D. Prezler, Commissioner

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 following agencies for possible cost share assistance programs.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFW) Partners in Wildlife Programs: In this program, dams for wildlife and livestock use are developed on school trust land (contact Scott Collins at 701-250-4403).

NRCS EQIP Program: This program provides cost share and planning assistance for water development practices. EQIP received a funding boost from the U.S. Congress in the 2002 Farm Bill legislation. More funding has resulted in more contracts for water development practices being approved statewide.

Ducks Unlimited Grassland Enhancement Program: This voluntary program provides financial assistance for water developments for wildlife and livestock as well as cross fencing (contact Paul Bultsma at 701-355-3533).

Next a water development permit must be obtained from the Land Department 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 Land Department permit requires all water developments to be built to NRCS specifications.

The State Land Department 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 \$1,300/dugout, \$1,380/dam, and \$2,700/well (well hole and casing only). Livestock water pipelines are also approved on school land but rarely receive any cost share assistance from the Land Department 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 \$1,300/dugout, \$1,380/dam, \$2,700/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 State Land Department. The lessee is responsible for furnishing the State Land Department with an itemized statement of the actual costs, plus copies of all supporting documentation which may be requested by the Land Department 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. For more information regarding this topic, contact Mike Humann at mhumann@state.nd.us or call (701) 328-2800.