

Water Sources: Waterer Comparison Chart

Source	Primary Advantages	Primary Limitations	Initial Cost	Maintenance Cost
Stream	Naturally occurring, no direct installation cost.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water may become stagnant and of poor quality during periods of low flow. Can have high levels of bacteria. Floods can cause maintenance issues (repair of fences and crossings). 	\$	\$-\$\$
Pond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not involve mechanical or electrical parts that can fail. Can be used for recreational purposes too. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct livestock access can cause poor water quality and damage structural integrity. High initial cost. Periodic restoration (silt removal). Variable supply depending upon precipitation. 	\$\$\$\$	\$
Spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relatively inexpensive. Small flows can be developed into a water supply. 	Not present in all locations.	\$-\$\$	\$
Water Intake Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple and inexpensive. Reduces sediment and nutrients entering streams and ponds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stream or pond access required. May require rental equipment or contractor to install. Not a common installation in Kansas. 	\$-\$\$	\$
Well	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent water quality. Long useful life. Reduces chances of surface water contamination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundwater may be deep, increasing installation costs. Aquifer not present in all locations. Power source needed to pump water. 	\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$	\$
Rural Water District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliable supply. High water quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not available in all locations. Pipeline from waterer to district line may be long and expensive to install. Minimum water use charges apply year-round. Membership and meter fees. 	\$-\$\$\$	\$
Hauled Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very mobile. Adapted to short-term grazing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labor intensive. Muddy/snowy conditions may complicate water delivery. Water may be wasted when valve not turned off. 	\$	\$\$-\$\$\$