

Common NRCS Practices for Equine Ranch Water Quality Plans

Compiled 2024 by Sonoma Resource Conservation District

Contact your local NRCS office at:

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NRCS Practice Title	Practice	Plan Section / Ranch Feature Likely to Utilize
Animal Trails and Walkways (575)	Install walkways to change animal traffic patterns	Pasture Management
Composting Facility (317)	Compost animal manure on a containment facility	Nutrient and/or Compost Management
Composting Facility (317)	Monitor compost temperature	Nutrient and/or Compost Management
Diversion (362)	Alter ground surface to improve drainage and prevent clean water from mixing with contaminated water	Confinement Areas
Diversion (362)	Divert downspout water away from contaminated areas	Stormwater Drainage
Fence (382)	Divide pastures for rotational grazing	Pasture Management
Fence (382)	Install riparian fencing to limit animal access to waterways	Pasture Management
Filter Strip (393)	Plant a vegetative filter strip	Manure Management Nutrient and/or Compost Management Stormwater Drainage Confinement Areas Wash Water
Grade Stabilization Structure (410)	Install a rock weir to control in-channel flow	Spillways

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Grassed Waterway (412)	Install a vegetative filter waterway	Confinement Areas Wash Water Non-Roadside Ditches Spillways
Grassed Waterway (412)	Install permanent vegetation at gutter outlet to reduce erosion	Manure Management
Heavy Use Area Protection (561)	Provide a stable, non-eroding surface for areas frequently used by animals	Pasture Management
Integrated Pest Management (595)	UC-IPM: Scout for pests	Pest Management Practices
Integrated Pest Management (595)	UC-IPM: Maintain pest management records	Pest Management Practices
Integrated Pest Management (595)	UC-IPM: Use chemicals that are lowest risk to water quality	Pest Management Practices
Irrigation System Evaluation (449)	Obtain an evaluation of the existing irrigation protection system	Pasture Management
Irrigation Water Management (449)	Keep irrigation water use records	Pasture Management
Irrigation Water Management (449)	Replace leaky pipes	Pasture Management
Lined waterway or outlet (468)	Line an eroding swale or diversion ditch	Non-Roadside Ditches
Livestock Pipeline (516)	Provide additional water sources to animals to improve distribution	Pasture Management
Nutrient Management (590)	Consult and follow UCCE crop requirements	Nutrient and/or Compost Management
Nutrient Management (590)	Time fertilizer application to reduce runoff and leaching	Nutrient and/or Compost Management
Nutrient Management (590)	Collect soil samples to assess available levels of soil nutrients	Nutrient and/or Compost Management
Pond (378)	Widen/enlarge the spillway	Spillways
Pond (378)	Stabilize the open channel spillway	Spillways
Pond (378)	Realign the existing spillway with the downstream waterway	Spillways
Restoration & Management of	Remove invasive riparian plants	Natural Waterways

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Declining Habitats (643)		
Riparian Forest Buffer (391)	Establish native riparian trees and shrubs	Natural Waterways
Riparian Forest Buffer (391)	Provide protection against stream erosion	Pasture Management
Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)	Establish native riparian grasses and forbs	Natural Waterways
Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)	Establish native grasses and forbs	Non-Roadside Ditches
Roof and Covers (367)	Install a roof or cover to divert clean water from animal management areas	Confinement Areas Stormwater Drainage
Roof Runoff Structure (558)	Install rock at gutter outlet to reduce erosion	Manure Management
Roof Runoff Structure (558)	Install roof gutters	Manure Management
Roof Runoff Structure (558)	Install roof gutters to capture clean stormwater	Stormwater Drainage
Roof Runoff Structure (558)	Tie downspouts into a drainage system	Stormwater Drainage
Streambank Protection (580)	Install bank protection at the spillway outlet	Spillways
Structure for Water Control (587)	Install a rock-lined basin to dissipate hydraulic energy	Natural Waterways
Structure for Water Control (587)	Install a rock-lined plunge basin	Spillways
Structure for Water Control (597)	Install rock check structures to dissipate hydraulic energy	Non-Roadside Ditches
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)	Install raptor roosts, owl boxes, and/or bat boxes	Pest Management Practices
Watering Facility (614)	Provide access to drinking water for livestock.	Pasture Management
Water Harvesting Catchment (636)	Install a rainwater catchment system	Stormwater Drainage