



Iowa Lakes Resource Conservation & Development

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Solar Water Pumping for Livestock Grazing Systems

Sometimes remote areas of pastures produce good forage but cattle don't spend much time there because it is too far from a water source. With the Iowa Lakes RC&D Solar Pumping project producers can get assistance installing a solar pumping system that pumps water in parts of the pasture where there is good forage potential but no electric lines.

The Solar Pumping project is targeting producers who could better utilize their pasture if they had a reliable source of electricity for pumping water in remote areas. There are several reasons why a livestock producer might consider this type of system. 1) There may be a water source in the pasture but no electricity for pumping. 2) A separate electric meter and electric power lines may be needed which creates a monthly charge regardless of usage. 3) Because of stream bank erosion and water quality reasons producers need to restrict livestock's access to streams and rivers currently used for watering.

By using a solar pumping system water sources such as streams and ponds can be protected and still be used by pumping water from these sites to a more suitable place for watering in the pasture.

The Iowa Lakes Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) has received funding to provide 75% cost-share on these type systems. Livestock producers in northwest Iowa are eligible. If you think this type of system might work on your farm you should contact the Iowa Lakes RC&D office in Spencer to find out more information. Their phone number is 712/262-2083. They are located at 14 W 21st Street in Spencer.