

# SPLASH INTO EXTENSION

## Water Wise: Tree Selection and Tree Care, (EC 302)

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build/ec302.pdf](http://ianrpubs.unl.edu/epublic/live/ec302/build/ec302.pdf)

This publication provides information on the value of trees; how to choose the best tree species for various parts of the landscape; and how to properly install and care for them in a water-conserving and drought-conscious manner.

## Providing Water to Pastured Livestock

By Bruce Anderson, UNL Forage Specialist

Water distribution to livestock is one of the most critical parts of good grazing management. Let's discuss ways to provide water throughout your pastures.

Plentiful, reliable, good quality water is essential for grazing livestock. Without good water, it doesn't matter how effective other grazing management practices might be.

But how important is location of that water? Cattle resist traveling far from water. They graze very little when more than a half mile away from water in rough country or a mile away on flat land. Under 1000 feet is the ideal. When they do travel far for water, they spend less time grazing, they burn off pounds walking, and they graze distant areas incompletely.

As animals walk back and forth from water they deposit manure and urine along the cow path and around water sites.

This transfers nitrogen, phosphorus, and other nutrients to areas with little grazing. A more even distribution of these deposits would grow more grass.

How can you improve your water distribution? More ponds, windmills, wells, and dugouts will help, but they can get expensive. Plus, they can only be placed in certain locations and they can't be moved. So my preference often is to use a pipeline. Pipelines can be put almost anywhere and you can establish a new water site anywhere along the pipeline. And water lines are less expensive than you might think. Water pipe and frost-proof trenching often qualify for cost-share funds. You also can leave your pipe on top of the ground, saving trenching costs, if you only need water during the growing season.

Over time, these water improvements pay for themselves with better grass and improved animal performance.



## Build Your Own Rain Barrel

Rainwater harvesting helps make the most of rain when we receive it; and helps slow down stormwater so more soaks into soil and less runs off to cause soil erosion and runoff pollution. A good project could be to build your own rain barrel or two.