

Conservation Practice Standard Overview

Water Harvesting Catchment (636)

Water harvesting catchment is a facility for collecting and storing runoff from precipitation.

Practice Information

The purpose of a water harvesting catchment is to provide water for livestock, fish, wildlife, and/or other uses by sealing contributing areas or the construction of elevated roof structures to increase, collect, and store runoff water for future use.

This practice involves sealing a watershed or portion of a watershed to increase, collect, and store runoff water. It may also involve installing curbs and/or diversions to direct the runoff water to a storage facility. The contributing area may be rock outcrops, paved areas, or other impervious areas that yield high rates of runoff. The contributing area, or apron, may require sealing with material such as asphalt, wax, rubber, plastic, concrete, metal, or other impervious material.

Construction of elevated roof structures would use appropriate materials to meet the life expectancy of the practice and may require additional design criteria to meet State or local building codes and permit requirements.

Consideration of the effects the practice has on the quantity and quality of surface water and groundwater resources should be made. Factors may include changes in evaporation,



timing of releases from the catchment, and the impact of the type of catchment on surface water versus groundwater resources.

A water harvesting catchment will require maintenance over the expected life of the practice.

Common Associated Practices

Water Harvesting Catchment (636) is commonly applied with conservation practices such as Diversion (362), Livestock Pipeline (516), Pumping Plant (533), Pond (378), Watering Facility (614), Aquaculture Ponds (379), and Critical Area Treatment (342).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.