

NEBRASKA TECHNICAL NOTE



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Natural Resources Conservation Service

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BIOLOGY TECHNICAL NOTE NO. 61
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Water Requirements for Specific Wildlife Species in Nebraska

Wildlife Species	Suggested Optimum Spacing (Miles)	Daily Water Consumption Requirements (Gallons)
* Elk	1.0	5 - 8 per animal
* Deer	0.5	1 - 2 per animal
* Antelope	1.0	1 - 2 per animal
Sharp-tailed Grouse	1.0	2 - 5 per facility
Greater Prairie Chicken	1.0	2 - 5 per facility
* Turkey	0.5	6 - 9 per facility
Pheasant	0.5	2 - 5 per facility
* Mourning Dove	0.5	2 - 5 per facility
Bobwhite Quail	0.25	2 - 5 per facility
Gray (Hungarian) Partridge	0.25	2 - 5 per facility
* Songbirds	0.25	1 - 2 per facility
Waterfowl	NA	
Shorebirds	NA	

* Species that are known to benefit from water developments, provided cover is adequate and water is scarce or unavailable.

Example: A tract of land in _____ County has no permanent water within a 1 mile radius. The landowner wants to provide water to support deer and pheasants. The landowner and NRCS technician anticipate that the surrounding habitat could support 10 deer and one flock of pheasants. It is also likely that mourning doves and various songbird species will be nontarget water users. The local wildlife biologist was consulted and concurred that the landowner's wildlife objective was reasonable. Daily water consumption requirements were calculated using the table above as follows:

10 Deer X 1.5 gallons	= 15
Pheasants	= 3
Doves	= 3
Songbirds	= 1
Total daily consumption	= 22 gallons per day