



Sustainable Solutions: A Model Wastewater Partnership



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A City in Transition

When the city of Liberal, Kansas decided to halt the processing of National Beef's wastewater, we were faced with a pressing challenge. With nearly three decades of reliance on the local treatment plant, National Beef® needed to quickly adapt to avoid potential disruptions in business. The situation was further compounded by the introduction of new regulations with stricter discharge limits and restrictions, making the need for a sustainable solution urgent.

Engaging Stakeholders for Innovative Solutions

Recognizing the need for a collaborative approach, National Beef engaged with the State of Kansas, the City of Liberal, regulatory authorities, and the local farming community. It was during this process that area farmer, Dan Brown, emerged as a key partner, offering a proposal to address the wastewater issue.

The Win-Win Partnership

In a mutually beneficial agreement, Brown Farms granted National Beef water rights to five of their wells, and in return received rights to the treated water from a new \$65 million state-of-the-art wastewater treatment facility. National Beef already had a blueprint for a wastewater treatment partnership from our Dodge City, Kansas location.

The Liberal facility was completed in 2022, and the treated water from the plant has revitalized 300 acres of previously unproductive land, fostered sustainable agricultural practices and benefited the farming community. Significantly, the project has reduced the amount of water pumped out of the Ogallala Aquifer (a natural resource that has become depleted in recent years) by hundreds of millions of gallons each year.

A Model for Responsible Practices

National Beef's commitment to sustainability and responsible practices is evident through our wastewater treatment solution at both Dodge City and Liberal Kansas plants. By repurposing wastewater as a valuable resource for irrigation, we are demonstrating our commitment to responsible water management and protection of natural resources.

Working Together as a Community

National Beef's ability to overcome the wastewater treatment challenge in Liberal, Kansas demonstrates the power of collaboration and innovation. By actively engaging stakeholders and forging a mutually beneficial partnership with the Brown family and local government, we ensured the continuity of our operations and the sustainable use of resources.

