

# Waste Field Storage

Alabama Guide Sheet No. AL 749



## Definition

Waste field storage is the temporary outside storage of solid or semi-solid animal manure under plastic in an environmentally safe manner.

## General Information

Consider waste field storage when:

- storage is for 180 days or less
- storage is not normally needed on an annual basis
- split applications of manure/litter may be needed
- cleanout of the confinement house must be done at a time when the waste cannot be land applied

Locate the waste field storage site:

- where all surface water drains from the storage area, preferably no more than 150 feet from the top of the slope
- at an all-weather location
- at least 1 foot vertically above the 25-year floodplain
- at least 200 feet from any natural water course and 100 feet from any drainage ditch
- at least 300 feet from a down-gradient well and 150 feet from an up-gradient well
- at least 700 feet from other residences or public areas

The foundation for the storage shall be:

- on a naturally clayey soil, or
- on a concrete pad, or
- on a synthetic liner at least 20 mil. thick that is covered with 1 foot of soil, or
- on a compacted clayey layer at least 1 foot thick

(NOTE: NRCS technicians can determine if the natural clayey soil is adequate and the degree of compaction required for a compacted clayey layer.)

Semi-solid wastes, which stack at a lower profile than solid wastes, may require the construction of small earthen berms to contain the wastes. If these wastes have the potential for seepage, a liner may be required to prevent groundwater contamination.

Field stored manure/litter is to be covered with opaque plastic sheeting having a minimum thickness of 6 mil. Reusable flexible membranes or tarpaulins may be used if they remain flexible and water resistant. The covering is to be placed tightly over the stack and berms, if required, and secured around the edges by diking, trenching, or otherwise fastening to prevent any contact with rain or tearing of the cover. Weighted objects or secured ropes, which will not damage the material, should be placed on the cover to prevent it from tearing during high winds.

## Operation and Maintenance

Prior to storing wastes, the site should be free of vegetation in order to make waste removal and clean-up easier.

When wastes are removed from the site, no loose wastes should remain on the surface of the site. Ruts and ridges caused by the loading equipment shall be smoothed after waste removal to prevent surface water retention.

The area for at least 50 feet down gradient of the storage site must be maintained to a dense stand of grass. Compacted clay pads used beneath the manure/litter storage may occasionally need reconstructing and smoothing if clay is inadvertently removed during the waste removal process. The cover will be subject to damage from weather, animals, equipment, etc. Frequent inspections and prompt repairs or replacement should be made, as needed, to assure the protection of natural resources and to provide a suitable product for land application.

Any repairs needed after storm events should be immediately completed. In all cases, precipitation must not come in contact with the stored wastes.

## Reference

NRCS AL Conservation Practice Standard  
Waste Field Storage, Code 749

*The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, and national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).*

*To file a complaint of discrimination, write the USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

April 2006