NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

GEORGIA

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

ANIMAL MORTALITY FACILITY

CODE 316

Land Owner/Operator_____

County_____ SWCD_____ Farm/Tract No. _____

Prepared By_____ Date 09/07/2011

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

A properly operated and maintained animal mortality facility is an asset to your farm. This composting facility was designed and installed for temporary storage, composting, and treatment of animal mortality. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 15 years. The life of this installation can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a systematic operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance to maintain satisfactory performance. Your operation and maintenance program requirements include:

COMPOSTER OPERATION

- The composter shall be loaded according to the recipe included in your design package. If this recipe was not included, contact your NRCS office to obtain a copy. Careful attention must be paid to the recipe in order for the composter to work properly. Contact NRCS to assist with troubleshooting during the composting process.

- Failure to manage the system will result in an odorous operation that may attract flies, buzzards, and other vermin. Mosquitoes may reproduce where standing water is present. To minimize vector problems:
  - Adhere to the composting recipe.
  - Eliminate standing water.
  - Employ good housekeeping to keep the area clean.

- The compost shall be land applied at the rates outlined in the Nutrient Management Plan and in accordance with state law.

- This composter was designed to handle normal mortality rates from this operation. The facility is not designed for catastrophic losses resulting from excessive heat, collapse of buildings, loss from disease, etc. Such losses shall be disposed of in a manner consistent with state law.

COMPOSTER MAINTENANCE

- The compost structure should be inspected at least twice each year when the facility is empty. Replace any wooden parts or hardware as needed. Roofed structures should be examined for structural integrity.

- Maintain all electrical and mechanical equipment by following the manufacturer's recommendations. Maintain grounding rods and wiring for all electrical equipment.

- All fences, railings, and/or warning signs shall be maintained to provide warning and/or prevent unauthorized human or livestock entry.

- Check backfill areas around structure for excessive settlement. Make necessary repairs.

- Check walls and floor often for cracks and/or separations. Make any necessary repairs.

- To prevent erosion, a good vegetative cover should be established and maintained around facilities. Clipping twice a year should kill noxious weeds and ensure a vigorous stand. Traffic accesses shall be maintained and/or replaced as necessary.

- Do not let dead poultry compost come into contact with litter stored in a litter storage shed.

- Do not compact the material by driving over it or packing it with equipment. Do not allow the operation of any equipment that exceeds the design limit on or within ten feet of the structure.

- Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular or livestock damage to the structure, earthen areas surrounding the structure, or any appurtenances.

- Positive drainage shall be maintained around the structure.

FREEZER OPERATION and MAINTENANCE

- The freezer shall be protected from precipitation and direct sunlight.

- Maintain the power source to the freezer. Consider alternative power sources power outages. Contingencies for disposal of mortality during prolonged power outages, freezer failure, or adversely impacted removal schedule are outlined below.

- Observe the freezer for leaks. Repair or replace damaged components as necessary.

- Maintain the temperature of the freezer between 22 and 26 degrees Fahrenheit.

- Freezer pads shall be maintained. Damaged pads shall be repaired or replaced as necessary.

INCINERATOR OPERATION and MAINTENANCE

- # Incinerator pads shall be maintained. Damaged pads shall be repaired or replaced as necessary.

- Maintain at least six inches between the incinerator chimney and any combustible roof parts.

Additional Operation and Maintenance Requirements Specific to this Plan:_____