



Operation & Maintenance Plan Waste Treatment (Code 629)

Landowner/Operator:

Date:

NRCS Service Center:

Conservation District:

Practice Location:

Tract/Field ID:

(Lat/Long or UTM Coord, or Sec/TS/R)

Expected Lifespan

The minimum expected lifespan of this practice is at least 10 years.

A properly operated and maintained **Milkhouse Wastewater Infiltration System** practice is an asset to your property. The purpose of this practice is to provide an infiltration area to remove sediment, organic matter, chemicals, nutrients and other pollutants from milkhouse wastewater. The life of the practice can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance to maintain satisfactory performance. The following are some requirements to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

Operation and Maintenance

- This system relies on infiltration into the ground to treat the wastewater from the milkhouse. The introduction of milk into the system can cause the pores in the soils to plug and prevent the wastewater to infiltrate. Therefore, it is very important that the volume of milk and solid material flowing into the milkhouse drain be kept to a minimum.
- If the bulk tank has to be dumped, divert the milk away from the infiltration system. Waste milk can be pumped into a liquid waste storage facility or into tank spreader where it can be hauled to another waste storage facility or land applied, depending upon the time of year.
- Do not dump waste milk such as colostrum into the milkhouse drain.
- The solids collection tanks installed with the infiltration system must be pumped out at least once a year. Also, remove and clean effluent filter.
- Do not allow heavy equipment traffic over or near the infiltration area. This will compact the area and diminish the ability of wastewater to percolate into the soil. Also, limit livestock access over or near the infiltration area. If necessary, install and maintain a fence around the area. Keep grassed mowed.

Inspection and Maintenance

- Periodic inspection of the infiltration area shall be made to insure the system is working. Check for odor and look for water seeping out of the ground.
- Inspect the inside of the septic tank and grease trap a minimum of twice per year, preferably once in the spring and once in late fall. Check tank baffles to insure proper operation. Check the buildup of grease in the tanks to determine if the tanks need to be pumped out more regularly. DO NOT enter tanks.
- Minimize equipment traffic over and around the septic tanks and grease trap. Excessive heavy traffic could damage tanks.
- Minimize heavy equipment traffic over and around PVC pipe or heavy duty pipe that can accommodate this kind of traffic.

Operation, Inspection, and Maintenance Costs

- It is estimated that the annual time to routinely inspect and make minor repairs to your Milkhouse Infiltration System will be:

- Inspection = 2 hours/month
- Minor Repairs = 2 hours/month
- Clean Out Tanks = 4 hours/year
- Major repairs will require extra time and materials.
- Most minor repairs can be made by the operator using basic hand tools. However, major repairs to damaged concrete, pipe, fence, etc. may require hiring a professional experienced in these repairs and improvements.
- Most maintenance, such as pumping out tanks, mowing, reseeding, etc. can be accomplished using common farm machinery. Occasionally major damage may require heavy construction equipment to make repairs.

Specific Site Requirements