OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN

"AGRICHEMICAL HANDLING FACILITY"

Landowner/Operator: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____

_____

Legal description of practice location: SEC _____ T _____ R _____

OVERVIEW

A properly operated and maintained Agrichemical Handling Facility is an asset to your farm. The Agrichemical Handling Facility was designed to control incidental spillage from chemical mixing and equipment filling operations. The life of this installation 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. A good operation and maintenance plan includes:

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

- Develop and maintain an emergency response plan that contains the telephone numbers for the emergency spill and poison center. All Materials Data Safety Sheets (MDSS) should be attached to the emergency response plan. The emergency response plan is to be located at the Agrichemical Handling Facility.

- The Agrichemical Handling Facility shall be kept free of items not necessary for the storing, mixing, loading, and cleanup operations. The facility should not be used for purposes other than the storing, mixing, loading, cleaning and maintenance of materials and equipment used for chemical application.

- Do not drain rinse water or rinsate from the chemical application equipment onto the mixing pad as a standard practice due to the probability of contamination by soil, trash and other chemicals.

- Sumps should be thoroughly cleaned between the mixing and loading of different chemicals. The resulting rinsate can be applied as a dilute chemical to a labeled site or used as make-up water for subsequent batches of the chemicals that are labeled for the same crop. The sump shall be pumped dry at the end of each day of operation.

- Sediment from a sump shall be removed with proper precautions taken to reduce exposure of the worker to any potential contaminants in the sediment. Sediment from a pesticide is considered the same weight active ingredient as the formulated chemical being mixed. This sediment should be land applied to the target crop at a rate below the label recommendation. The sediment shall be removed from the sump prior to a switch from one chemical to another chemical.

- The rinsate tanks used for holding tanks for sump discharge should be emptied as soon as possible. The rinsate can be applied as a dilute chemical or used as dilution water for subsequent batches of chemicals that are labeled for the same crop.

- All material removed from the containment mixing pad and sump must be: (a) applied to the target crop as pesticide, (b) used as make-up water in mixing to be applied to the target crop, or (c) disposed of as waste in conformance with all local, state, and federal regulations.

- Do not allow the operation of any equipment that exceeds the design limit on or within twenty feet of the Agrichemical Handling Facility.

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

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

- Use appropriate personal safety equipment such as gloves, eye protection, and respirator when mixing and handling agricultural chemicals.

- Do not allow human entry into any enclosed structure without safety equipment that includes ladders and breathing apparatus.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Agrichemical Handling Facility should be inspected periodically to ensure proper operation. The inspection should include, but not limited to:

- ❑ Cracks in the concrete pad and sump.
- ❑ Sealer on the interior surfaces of the pad, sump, and sidewalls.
- ❑ Operation of back flow prevention devices.
- ❑ Hoses, pipes, valves, connectors, filters, tanks, and related plumbing material.
- ❑ All lids, grated, and shields on openings to underground structures.
- ❑ Safety equipment.
- ❑ Electrical systems.
- ❑ Roof and structural integrity of facility.
- ❑ Access roads and ramps.
- ❑ Drainage around building.
- ❑ Labeling of rinsate storage tanks that will insure proper methods for applying rinsate back to the land
- ❑ Chemical inventory.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR STRUCTURE

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE OFFICE FOR ANY ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE YOU MIGHT NEED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR YOUR STRUCTURE.