

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD  
SOUTH DAKOTA SUPPLEMENTS ITALICIZED**

**WASTE UTILIZATION**

(ac.)

**CODE 633**

**DEFINITION**

Using agricultural waste or other *plant or animal* waste on land in an environmentally acceptable manner while maintaining or improving soil and plant resources.

**PURPOSE**

To safely use *plant or animal* wastes to provide fertility for crop, forage, or fiber production; to improve or maintain soil structure; to prevent erosion; and to safeguard water resources.

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

*Waste Utilization is a component of a planned agricultural waste management system (see Practice Standard 312.)*

On soils and vegetation suitable for the use of waste as a fertilizer. This includes waste from farm, feedlot, and dairy operations; municipal treatment plants; and agricultural processing plants.

**LOCATION**

*Disposal sites for waste such as manure and wastewater, cannot be located closer than 1,000 feet from an existing public water well or drinking water source nor 250 feet from an existing private water well or drinking water source, or closer than 150 feet from a water well or drinking water source that is owned by the producer.*

**GENERAL DESIGN REQUIREMENTS**

*Routine stockpiling of waste shall be done only at a designated stockpiling site (see standard for Waste Storage Facility (313).*

*All wastes shall be utilized or disposed of in a manner that will prevent pollution of surface or groundwater. By law, wetlands, as well as lakes,*

*streams, and aquifers, must be protected from pollution.*

*Discharge of wastes from land application sites must not occur except when chronic or catastrophic (larger than 25-year frequency, 24-hour duration) rainfall events occur.*

*Appropriate buffer zones must be maintained between land application sites and points of discharge from the site.*

*The amount of waste that may be applied to a land application site is limited by nutrient content of the waste. Applications to land must follow Practice Standard Nutrient Management (590).*

*The amount of waste applied may also be limited by content of other nutrients, salts, heavy metals, or other substances in the wastes. Wastes must not be applied to land in amounts that impair land productivity or render it toxic or cause it to become a significant environmental pollution hazard.*

*Significant amounts of pesticides, petroleum products, and other nonplant and animal products must be excluded from the wastes covered by this standard.*

*Where land application sites are limited, nutrient content of wastes may be reduced by processing in treatment lagoons, gas generators, composting, systems, constructed wetlands, and/or other treatment systems.*

**PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS**

**Water Quantity**

1. Effect on the water budget, especially on volumes, and rates of runoff, and infiltration.
2. Variability of the practice's effects caused by seasonal weather variations.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically and updated if needed. The current version of this standard is posted on our website at [www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov) or may be obtained at your local Natural Resources Conservation Service.

3. Effects of increasing organic matter on water holding capacity of the soil.
4. Potential for a change in plant growth and transpiration because of changes in the volume of soil water.

**Water Quality**

1. Effects on the movement of soluble and sediment-attached substance, sediment, organic material, and pathogens that could be carried by runoff.
2. Effects on the use and management of nutrients and pesticides and resulting effects on surface and groundwater quality.

**SPECIFICATIONS GUIDE**

Specify the amount of waste needed to supply the fertility requirements of the crops to be grown. Specify the amount of waste (solid or liquid) that can be applied without damaging vegetation or exceeding drainage and soil capabilities. Specify maximum acceptable levels of trace elements and heavy metals. *Include future nutrient testing and management requirements.* Comply with laws and minimize adverse environmental impacts. Provide for alternative methods of disposal.