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Date:

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN **AGRICHEMICAL HANDLING FACILITY**

Agrichemical Handling Facilities (AHF) provide an environmentally safe area for the handling of on-farm agrichemicals. The estimated life span of the installation is at least 20 years. The life of this conservation practice can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program including the following requirements:

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Management of chemicals is the responsibility of the owner/operator and shall be in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

Operation

- All mixing of chemicals and washing of equipment shall occur within the containment facility.
- Test and flush AHF plumbing with clean water before the first use each season.
- Keep the AHF clean at all times. The pad should be kept free of items not necessary for storing, mixing, loading, and clean-up operations.
- Immediately respond to any spills, leaks, accidents, or normal operational procedures from which chemicals or chemical contaminated water comes in contact with the pad.
- Liquids shall not be allowed to remain in the sump and shall be pumped into either a sprayer tank or emergency storage tank.
- AHF storage tank(s) should be emptied as soon as possible. Liquids from the tank(s) should be land applied to the target crop at a rate below the label requirements.
- Rinse water shall not be drained from sprayers or chemical containers onto the pad as a standard practice.
- Cross mixing of various chemicals or chemical contaminated water shall be avoided except where allowed by product labels.
- All materials that come in contact with chemicals and chemical contaminated water shall be handled as required by state regulations and product labels.
- Empty chemical containers shall be kept on the pad until the containers are returned to permanent-primary storage or are decontaminated in accordance with state regulations and product labels.

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- Clean the pad by triple rinsing or power washing with a biodegradable detergent after any spill clean-up.
- Sediments collected in the sump or filters should be removed periodically to reduce build-up. Sediment should be land applied to the target crop. As a minimum, sediment should be removed prior to change of the chemical being handled.
- All pumps, plumbing and tanks shall be properly winterized prior to the onset of freezing weather conditions.
- Ensure that there is adequate ventilation prior to entering storage areas or handling chemicals.
- Any precipitation that accumulates on the pad during the operational period shall be considered contaminated and shall be either pumped into a sprayer tank for application on the target crop or pumped to the emergency storage tank.

Inspection and Maintenance

- Thoroughly inspect the AHF on a regular basis, in the beginning of each growing season as a minimum. The inspection should include, but is not limited to the pad, coatings on the interior surfaces of the pad and sump, pumps, hoses, piping, valves, filters, tanks, electrical systems, safety equipment, access pads, and building structure. Complete needed maintenance prior to use of the AHF.
- Inspect the concrete pad for cracks or other signs of deterioration. Cracks are a serious concern and must be investigated and treated. Obtain engineering assistance from NRCS or a qualified consultant.

Safety

- Post and maintain all warning signs in accordance with state regulations and product labeling requirements.
- Provide and maintain all safety and first aid equipment required by the product labels.
- Provide safety training for all personnel who will use the AHF.
- As a part of an emergency response plan, maintain the following information at the AHF and at the operator's home or office:
 - List of emergency telephone numbers including police and fire, local poison control center, and spill clean-up company.
 - Inventory of Chemicals being stored or handled at the AHF.
 - Material Safety Data Sheets for all products.
 - Site plan showing the relation of the AHF to nearby sensitive areas such as drains, wells, houses, livestock areas, other buildings, and the direction of runoff.