

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
SEASONAL HIGH TUNNEL SYSTEM FOR CROPS
CODE 325**

Landowner/Operator _____

Practice Location _____

County _____ Farm/Tract No. _____

Prepared By _____ Date _____

The high tunnel cover shall be periodically inspected and shall be reinstalled or repaired as necessary to accomplish the intended purpose for the four year lifespan of the practice. Any tears or punctures to the roof and side walls shall be repaired or the cover replaced as necessary to allow the structure to retain sufficient heat during the early and late growing season period and to provide sufficient structural integrity to withstand strong winds.

Seasonal High Tunnel Systems funded by NRCS are not intended to bear the weight of snow loads. Follow the manufactures instructions related to the seasonal removal of the cover or the winter maintenance requirements for the structure and cover.

Crops shall be planted directly into the soil underlying the high tunnel system or into raised beds composed primarily of soil found on site. Plants shall not be grown in pots, on racks, in beds of growing media imported to the site or utilizing hydroponics during the 4 year life span of the practice.

Passive ventilation systems (side curtains, ridge vents etc.) shall be adjusted as necessary to maintain an appropriate growing environment in the high tunnel system. Use of mechanically powered ventilation systems in the high tunnel is allowed.

Irrigation systems may be installed as needed in the high tunnel system to meet the growth habits and water consumption requirements of the planned crops.

To maintain soil condition within the high tunnel system the practice may be moved annually to a new location (if designed by manufacturer to allow movement) or the use of cover crops, mulches or other soil building practices may be utilized to maintain soil condition.

Access to the high tunnel system shall be restricted as necessary to prevent children, pets and animals from entering the production area during hazardous periods such as high heat conditions or when applying pesticides.

The use of shade cloth or other materials may be applied to the high tunnel structure as necessary to reduce the intensity of mid-summer sunlight.

Runoff created by the construction of the high tunnel system shall be directed to a stable outlet. High tunnel systems shall not be placed in areas where flooding or areas of concentrated flow can be expected to occur.

Apply pesticides, nutrients, and irrigation water in a manner that will not cause surface water or ground water impairments and will not create a health concern for humans in and around the high tunnel.

I agree with this Operation and Management Plan and will maintain the Season High Tunnel System according to this plan for four years from the date that NRCS certifies that installation of the practice is complete.

Producer Signature _____ Date _____