United States Department of Agriculture

Conservation Practice Standard Overview

Short-Term Storage of Animal Waste and By-Products (318)

Short-term storage of animal waste and byproducts consists of temporary, non-structural measures used to store solid or semi-solid, organic agricultural waste or manure on a short-term basis between collection and utilization.

Practice Information

The purpose of short-term storage of animal waste and by-products is to temporarily stockpile or store animal waste such as organic byproducts, stackable livestock and poultry manure, bedding, litter, spilled feed, or soil mixed with manure in an environmentally safe manner. Short-term storage provides improved nutrient utilization and conservation through greater flexibility in nutrient application timing and protects surface and groundwater resources as well as reduces energy use.

Site conditions, climate, and State or local laws may require short-term storage stockpiles to be covered. Covers may include plastic sheeting, geotextile, or geotextile bags.

Short-term storage planning should incorporate environmental concerns, economics, the overall waste management system plan, and safety and health factors.

The design of short-term storage depends on the intended storage period; the site location and foundation soils; Federal, State, and local laws and regulations; waste volume; stockpile covering; and safety concerns.

An operation and maintenance plan is developed to specify requirements for utilizing the stored manure. The plan specifies timing, rates, and volume of waste applications. An emergency action plan will be developed where there is a potential for an accidental manure spill event.

Common Associated Practices

Short-Term Storage of Animal Waste and By-Products is commonly applied with conservation practices such as Nutrient Management (590) and Waste Recycling (633).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.