

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR  
WASTE STORAGE FACILITY**

**CODE 313**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Desc. \_\_\_\_\_

Ident. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_

A properly operated and maintained waste storage facility is an asset to your farm. This structure was designed and installed to temporarily store wastes such as manure, wastewater, and contaminated runoff as a storage function component of an agricultural waste management system. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 15 years. The life of this installation can be ensured 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 for satisfactory performance. Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

**General Recommendations**

- Do not allow human entry to any enclosed structure without safety equipment that includes ladders and breathing apparatus.
- Do not allow the operation of any equipment that exceeds the design load limit on or within 20 feet of the structure.
- Maintain all pumps, agitators, piping, valves, and other electrical and mechanical equipment in good operating condition by following the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Maintain grounding rods and wiring for all electrical equipment in good condition.
- Maintain all fences, railings, and/or warning signs to prevent unauthorized human access or uncontrolled livestock grazing.

- Immediately repair any damage due to vandalism, vehicles, or livestock that has been done to the structure, earthen areas surrounding the structure, or any appurtenances.
- Inspect the facility at least annually and after each significant storm event to identify repair and maintenance needs.
- Maintain all lids, grates, and shields on ramps and openings to underground structures.
- Immediately remove all foreign debris within the structure that may cause damage to pumps or agitators.
- Make sure that the foundation drains are functional and that screens and/or rodent guards are in place.
- Maintain the soil covering adjacent to all structures at elevations shown on the plan.
- Maintain vigorous growth of desirable vegetative on berms and side slopes. Periodically mow to control height.
- Maintain embankments to the designed shape and height. All settlement or cracks in the embankment or adjacent to a pipe should be investigated to determine their cause. Repair these immediately. Also repair any rills found on the side slopes.
- Inspect the downstream face and toe of the embankment annually to check for wet spots which may indicate a problem.

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- Check pipe inlets and outlets periodically. Make sure that they are free-flowing.
- Keep trash racks and animal guards in place. Remove obstructions or blockages promptly. Repair erosion at the outlet of the discharge pipes as needed
- Follow the schedule developed for emptying the structure.
- Inspect for damage by rodents or burrowing animals. Immediately repair any damage and take appropriate corrective actions to avoid further damage.
- Repair spalls, cracks, and weathered areas in concrete surfaces.
- Repair or replace rusted or damaged metal and paint it.
- Replace weathered or displaced rock riprap to constructed grade.
- Apply insecticides as needed for insect control according to the manufacturer's recommendations and precautions and according to the pest management plan.
- Operate the system in a manner to minimize odors and air drift.
- Maintain the staff gage to indicate the maximum operating level for the manure and wastewater stored in the facility.
- Remove the manure and/or wastewater when the level is above the maximum operating level to allow room to store runoff from precipitation events.
- Remove the manure and/or wastewater before the start of winter to allow enough storage when the ground is frozen and wastes cannot be applied.
- Develop an emergency action plan for the waste storage facility to cover the significant impact from breach or accidental release. The plan shall include site-specific provisions for emergency actions that will minimize these impacts.

### **Specific Recommendations**

**If you need additional technical assistance to implement the operation and maintenance plan for this structure, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at your local USDA Service Center (listed in the telephone book under United States Government).**