

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR
LIVESTOCK SHELTER STRUCTURE**

CODE 576

Name _____

Ident. No. _____

Legal Desc. _____

County _____

A properly operated and maintained livestock shelter structure is an asset to your farm. This structure was designed and installed to do one or more of the following:

- Provide protection for livestock from excessive heat, wind, cold, or snow.
- Protect surface waters from nutrient and pathogen loading.
- Protect wooded areas from accelerated erosion and excessive nutrient deposition by providing alternative livestock shelter/shade location.
- Improve the distribution of grazing livestock to enhance wildlife habitat, reduce over-used areas, or correct other resource concerns resulting from improper livestock distribution.

The estimated life span of this installation is at least 10 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

- Inspect the structure annually and after major storm events.
- Maintain the structural and fabric components throughout the life span of the practice.

- Replace and/or repair maintenance coatings on structural steel components as necessary.
- Tighten the shade cloth periodically to minimize wind damage.
- Replace the fabric cover when it has deteriorated due to environmental conditions.
- Move portable structures periodically to prevent destruction of vegetation in the immediate area.
- If shelters are not moved frequently, collect and remove accumulated animal waste on a regular basis or specified time interval and use in accordance with [Conservation Practice Standard \(CPS\) 633, Waste Recycling](#), or [CPS 590, Nutrient Management](#), as appropriate.
- Immediately repair any damage due to vandalism, vehicles, or livestock.

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).