

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**  
**HEAVY USE AREA PROTECTION – CODE 561**

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

**Stabilizing Areas Frequently and Intensively Used By Livestock**

Land Owner/Operator \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Parish \_\_\_\_\_ SWCD \_\_\_\_\_ Farm/Tract No. \_\_\_\_\_

Practice Location Section \_\_\_\_\_ Township \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



The life of this installation can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program. A properly operated and maintained heavy use area protection project is an asset to the farm. This project was designed and installed to provide firm footing for animals when feeding or watering and is intended to protect prevent mudding and soil erosion and improve water quality.

Operation is defined as operating the practice in compliance with all laws, regulations, ordinances and easements and in a manner that is beneficial to the environment and will permit the practice to serve its intended purpose. Maintenance includes working to prevent deterioration of the practice, repairing damage, or replacing components that may fail. Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program:

**GENERAL O&M RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Inspect the heavy use areas (HUA) annually and after significant storm events to identify repair and maintenance needs.
- The area immediately down slope of the heavy use area will be maintained in vegetation.
- All associated fences and filter strips will be maintained to promote vegetative growth and filter

Contact your local NRCS Field Office for any additional technical assistance you might need for implementation of this operation and maintenance plan for your heavy use area protection.

**NRCS, LA**  
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runoff from the HUA.

- Where vegetation is denuded, it will be re-established in the early spring.
- Periodically scrape manure and wasted feed to remove undesirable accumulation of manure and trapped liquid. Take care in the scraping operation to minimize the removal of surface covering.
- Remove manure and wasted feed from the HUA during times when land application equipment can traverse fields and when actively growing crops can utilize nutrients in the manure.
- When stacking and storing manure and wasted feed, the area must have good drainage away from the pile. The manure storage area should be protected from weather, livestock and runoff. Vegetation must be maintained around the manure pile.
- Replacement of rock or surfacing materials will be needed occasionally. Replace weathered or displaced surface materials to the grade of the original design.
- Repair spalls, cracks, and weathered areas in concrete surfaces.
- Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals. Immediately repair any damage caused by rodents or burrowing animal activity.

#### **ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**