

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
_____, OKLAHOMA**

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN
WINTER FEEDING FACILITY**

Sponsor/Land user: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Legal description of practice location: SEC _____ T _____ R _____

A properly operated and maintained winter feeding facility is an asset to your farm. The feeding floor provides a stable, non-eroding surface for the collection of manure. The feeding floor is protected from rainfall by a roof which prevents runoff and pollution potential. The waste storage facility portion of this facility was designed and installed for temporary storage of dry scraped manure from the feeding floor. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 15 years. The life of this facility can be assured 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 to maintain satisfactory performance. Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

OPERATION OF WASTE STORAGE STRUCTURE

The waste management system for your operation includes a winter feeding facility planned and designed by NRCS to provide temporary storage of a mixture of manure and wasted feed. The system is planned to manage waste generated on the feeding floor by the dairy operation in a manner that prevents or minimizes degradation of soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources and protects public health and safety. It is also planned to preclude discharge of pollutants to surface water from a 25-year, 24-hour storm event, to minimize ground water contamination, and to recycle the waste produced through soil and crops to the fullest extent possible.

The dairy cattle typically spend a couple of hours per day on the feeding floor. Manure is deposited on the feeding floor and mixed in with wasted feed due to natural movement and activity of the cows. The cows deposit approximately 10% of their total daily manure excretions on the feeding floor. The feeding floor is curbed to prevent the manure from leaving the floor. Periodically, as needed the floor will be dry scraped to remove the manure accumulated on the feeding floor and transferred to the waste storage area at the end of the winter feeding facility.

The waste storage structure is designed to accommodate manure storage for dairy cows during the winter months. The structure is designed to handle manure from _____ cows with an average mature weight of _____ pounds. The maximum anticipated storage period would not exceed 120 days.

The stored manure is land applied to crop or pasture land as specified in the Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) when possible during the growing season. If the feeding facility is used during the growing season the manure removal will be land applied to the designated spreading fields.

All manure will be utilized following the guidelines in the CNMP. It is recommended that waste nutrient testing of any manure stored be tested for nutrient content prior to land application. Loss of nutrients during storage can result.

GENERAL MAINTENACE RECOMMENDATIONS

- The building should be thoroughly inspected at least twice a year when empty.
- Any parts, hardware, or other replaceable parts that are damaged or show excessive wear or decay should be replaced.
- Do not allow the operation of any equipment that exceeds the design load limit on or within twenty feet of the structure.
- All disturbed areas around the structure, including spoil or borrow areas, should be vegetated or covered with gravel to prevent erosion.
- Maintain all electrical and mechanical equipment, if applicable, in good operating condition by following the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Maintain grounding rods and wiring for all electrical equipment in good condition.
- All fences, railings, and/or warning signs shall be maintained to prevent unauthorized human or livestock entry.
- Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular or livestock damage to the structure, earthen areas surrounding the structure, or any appurtenances.
- Follow the schedule developed for emptying the structure.
- Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals. Immediately repair any damage caused by their activity.
- Repair spalls, cracks and weathered areas in concrete surfaces.
- Repair or replace rusted or damaged metal and paint.
- Repair or replace rotted or damaged lumber and posts.
- Apply insecticides for insect control as per manufacturer's recommendations and precautions, as needed and according to the Pest Management Plan.
- Operate system in a manner to minimize odors and air drift.
- Utilization or disposal of the manure will be according to the current nutrient management plan for your facility.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR INSTALLATION

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE OFFICE FOR ANY ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE YOU MIGHT NEED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR YOUR STRUCTURE.