

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**  
**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS**  
**ANIMAL MORTALITY FACILITY**

**Burial**

**CODE 316**

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

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

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

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS**

A properly operated and maintained animal mortality facility is an asset to your farm. This burial facility was designed and installed for treatment and disposal of animal mortality. The estimated life span of this installation is at least \_\_\_\_ years. The life of this installation can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a systematic operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance to maintain satisfactory performance. Your operation and maintenance program requirements include:

**BURIAL OPERATION**

Dig a large pit or trench as located on the plan map.

Insert dead animals daily, and cover them with one to two feet of soil.

The pit should be graded so that it does not impound water. Runoff from the pit should flow into a grass filter. Note: When adequate drainage is not provided, these pits or trenches fill with water and carcasses may actually float to the surface. The water in the pit is very bacteria-laden and may be a hazard to both animal and human health. There is also high potential for ground water contamination from both bacteria and nutrients.

Burial trenches and pits must have at least a 2.0 foot separation between the bottom of the trench and groundwater.

The pits should also have a berm to divert rainfall and runoff from the site. The soil should be able to infiltrate any rainfall that falls directly into the pit.

Vectors (dogs, rats, snakes, flies, etc.) are potential problems in a burial situation. If a producer chooses this method for disposal of dead animals, the carcasses must be covered daily as to reduce vectors in and around the trench or pit.

