

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
SOUTH CAROLINA
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS
WASTE STORAGE FACILITY

CODE 313

Land Owner/Operator _____

County _____ SWCD _____ Farm/Tract No. _____

Prepared By _____ Date _____

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

A properly operated and maintained waste storage structure is an asset to your farm. The waste storage structure was designed and installed to be used for the temporary storage of animal wastes. Estimated life span of this installation is at least 10 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 periodic maintenance and may also require operational items to maintain satisfactory performance. Your operation and maintenance program includes:

- Waste shall be removed from storage and utilized at locations, times, rates, and volumes in accordance with South Carolina Conservation Practice Standards *Nutrient Management (Code 590)* or *Waste Utilization (Code 633)*. South Carolina R. 61-43 and the current CNMP or AFMP must be followed when emptying and applying animal wastes. Waste storage ponds are to be routinely agitated and pumped to prevent the accumulation of excessive solids.
- Maintain all pumps, agitators, piping, valves and all 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.
- Do not allow the operation of any equipment that exceeds the design limit on or within ten feet of the structure.
- All fences, railings, and/or warning signs shall be maintained to provide warning and/or prevent unauthorized human or livestock entry. Maintain all lids, grates, and shields on openings to underground structures.
- Maintain positive drainage away from the facility.
- Immediately empty storage facilities if the structure has been damaged and there is danger of imminent failure. Immediately seek a qualified engineer to assess the situation. Follow the Emergency Action Plan in case of an overflow, breach, leakage, fire, need for emergency land application, etc.
- Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals and repair any damage caused by their activity. Maintain screens and/or rodent guards.

- Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular or livestock damage to the structure, earthen areas surrounding the structure, or any appurtenances.
- Operate the facility in a manner that minimizes odors and air drift.
- **Do not allow human entry into any enclosed structure without safety equipment that includes ladders and breathing apparatus.**

Additionally, for a dry stack animal waste storage facility:

- Stacking facilities shall be inspected at least twice each year when the facility is empty. Any wooden parts, hardware, or other replaceable parts which are damaged or show excessive wear or decay shall be replaced. Roof structures should be examined for structural integrity. Walls of dry stacks that are constructed with lumber may need repair or replacement during the life of the structure.
- To prevent erosion, a good vegetative cover should be established and maintained around facilities. Clipping twice a year should kill noxious weeds and ensure a vigorous stand. Traffic accesses shall be maintained and/or replaced as necessary.
- Check backfill areas around structure for excessive settlement. Make necessary repairs.

Additionally, for a poultry litter dry stack facility:

- Poultry litter shall not be stored outside unless an emergency situation occurs. Litter must be covered in accordance with the certified Nutrient Management Plan and Virginia state law.
- When moving litter from houses to shed, push out and loading areas should be scraped and cleaned to avoid spilled litter from entering streams. If possible, when removing litter from shed, the litter should be loaded in the shed. If loaded outside, all spilled litter should be scraped and removed.
- In order to reduce the potential for fires in the litter storage structure the following is recommended:
 - Pile height should not exceed 6 feet. Storing material in separate small windrows reduces the cross sectional area and is the safest option for stacking.
 - Keep the litter dry. Do not wet the litter in the hope of preventing fire; just the opposite may occur.
 - Avoid placing wet material in contact with dry material. Do not layer new litter on top of old, and do not let dead poultry compost come into contact with stored litter.
 - Do not compact the material by driving over it or packing it with equipment.
 - Monitor temperatures at different points in the pile frequently. If temperatures exceed 190°, or if the material is smoldering, prepare to remove material from the building. This includes notifying the local fire department to be on hand. A smoldering pile could burst into flames if exposed to air. A garden hose could be inadequate to extinguish the fire.

