

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN
WASTE STORAGE FACILITY
CODE 313**

Landowner/Operator _____

Total Animal Units _____

Job Location _____ GPS _____

Prepared By _____ Date _____

Operation and Maintenance Items

Operation and maintenance (O&M) is necessary for all conservation practices and is required for all practices installed with the Natural Resources Conservation Service assistance. The land user is responsible for proper O&M throughout the life of the practice and as may be required by federal, state, or local laws or regulations.

Operation refers to operation of the practice in compliance with all laws, regulations, ordinances, and easements; and in such a manner that will result in the least adverse impact on the environment and will permit the practice to serve the purpose for which it was installed. Maintenance includes work to prevent deterioration of the practice, repairing damage, or replacing components which fail. Necessary operation and maintenance items for this practice include:

Inspect system weekly and after major storm events.

Inspect earthwork for signs of seepage, rodent damage, settlement, misalignment, or erosion and repair as needed.

Settlement or cracks in earthen sections must be investigated (to determine the cause) and repaired.

Inspect concrete for accelerated weathering, spalling, settlement, misalignment, or cracks. Repair defects.

Inspect rock riprap for accelerated weathering and displacement. Repair to original grades if necessary.

Inspect metal surfaces for rust and other damage. Especially inspect sections in contact with earthfill and/or other materials. Repair or replace damaged sections and apply a protective covering.

Prior to the storage season, empty the storage facility following the design. Apply waste according to the nutrient management plan and do not apply manure on saturated soil or frozen ground. Do not apply waste material immediately after a rain or within 12 hours of forecasted rain unless it can be immediately incorporated into the soil. Do not apply liquid at a rate that exceeds the soil intake rate.

The facility will be operated according to the plan and in such a way that the design freeboard will not be exceeded.

Confine travel of vehicles and livestock to designated areas to prevent erosion and enhance vegetation.

Maintain windbreaks or other visual or odor dispersive methods.

Poison gases are often heavier than air and may be trapped in closed waste storage structures. Do not allow human entry without safety equipment, including ladders and breathing apparatus. Maintain all lids, grates, and shields on openings to underground or enclosed structures.

Repair any rodent, burrowing animal, vandalism, vehicle, or livestock damage. Remove debris. Control rodents and insects as necessary.

Maintain all pumps, agitators, piping, valves, and all other electrical and mechanical equipment in good operating condition following electrical codes and manufacturers' recommendations. Inspect and repair grounding rods, switches, and wiring.

Make sure all structure drains are functional and soil is not being transported through the drainage system. Screens and/or rodent guards must be maintained and in place.

Maintain vigorous growth of vegetative coverings. This includes reseeding, fertilization, and application of herbicides when necessary. Periodic mowing may also be needed.

Shrubs and small trees with a mature height of less than 25 feet shall be planted a minimum of 25 feet from the toe of the exterior berm of a holding pond or the foundation of a manure containment system, and trees with a mature height of greater than 25 feet shall be planted at least 50 feet from the toe of the exterior berm of a holding pond or the foundation of a manure containment system. Any volunteer trees and shrubs should be removed from the above boundaries depending on the species.

Fences, railings, and warning signs must be maintained to provide warning and prevent unauthorized entry.

Other _____

Animal Feeding at Headquarters

The headquarters is a land unit where animals are raised and fed, and the area also does not meet other NRCS land use definitions such as cropland, pastureland, rangeland, etc. For a minimum of 15 years after certification of the Waste Storage Facility, the producer will continue to contain the manure/runoff from all animals on the headquarters with the designed Waste Storage Facility(s). Exceptions are:

1. 25 animal units or less are allowed to be on the headquarters without their manure/runoff contained with the Waste Storage Facility(s).
2. Animals are allowed for 45 days or less in any calendar year without their manure/runoff contained with the Waste Storage Facility(s).
3. Animals are allowed in parts of the headquarters where crops or vegetation are sustained during the normal growing season without their manure/runoff contained with the Waste Storage Facility(s).

Other than the 3 exceptions noted, if the producer is found to have animals on the headquarters where their manure/runoff is not contained by the designed Waste Storage Facility(s), then the NRCS will request the producer payback all EQIP funds paid in the contract.

I understand and agree to the items listed in the "Operation and Maintenance Items", and "Animal Feeding at Headquarters" on this form:

Producer Signature _____ Date _____