

HEAVY USE AREA PROTECTION

CODE 561

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN



The life of this installation can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program. Operation and Maintenance (O & M) is necessary for all conservation practices and is required for all practices installed with NRCS 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. The heavy use area protection is designed to provide firm footing for animals when feeding or watering, vehicles, and equipment and is intended to 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.

Necessary operation and maintenance items for this practice include:

- Inspect the heavy use areas annually and after significant storm events to identify repair and maintenance needs.
- Periodically scrape manure and wasted feed to remove undesirable accumulation of manure and trapped liquid. If using a front-end loader, back drag the manure/hay to conserve removal of fine material from the surface or install shoes on the front and rear of the bucket to elevate bucket's front edge. Consider using fabricated large equipment tire for scraping surface.
- Remove manure and wasted feed from the heavy use area during times when land spreading equipment can traverse fields and when actively growing crops can utilize nutrients in the manure.
- When stacking manure, the area where manure is temporarily stacked must have good drainage away from the manure pile. Runoff must not travel or leach through the manure pile. Vegetation must be maintained around manure pile.
- Maintain 35-foot non-application setback from streams, lakes, sinkholes and other sensitive areas, when evenly spreading manure across fields.
- Replace fine surface material when the thickness of the heavy use area is reduced to 4 inches. Any repairs to the geotextile or the concrete, if used, need to be made at this time.
- The area immediately down slope of the heavy use area will be maintained in vegetation. Where vegetation is denuded, it will be re-established during the early spring. All associated fences and filter strips will be maintained to promote vegetative growth and filter runoff from the HUA.

Other:

Tract/Field No.:			
Landowner/Operator Name:		Review Date:	
Prepared By:		Date:	