

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Conservation Practices - Confined Livestock

EQIP is the principal program for delivering conservation technical and financial assistance to private landowners. EQIP supports the needs of agricultural operations by offering ideas, solutions, and guidance for a successful and sustainable conservation operation. Practices described, and others, can be selected and installed after developing a conservation plan designed to address your specific resource concerns. For confined livestock operations, the following list of conservation practices are the most commonly used.



Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)

A CNMP is a plan that groups conservation practices and management activities which, when implemented as part of a conservation system, will help to ensure that both production and natural resource protection goals are achieved. Unique to animal feeding operations, a CNMP incorporates practices to utilize animal manure and organic by-products as beneficial resources. The CNMP documents the existing conservation system planned agricultural waste management system and addresses identified natural resource concerns including:

- Soil erosion and soil quality
- Water quality
- Air quality



Manure Transfer

(Conservation Practice Standard 634)

Manure Transfer is a practice that transfers animal manure (bedding material, spilled feed, process and wash water, and other residues associated with animal production) through a hopper or reception pit, a pump (if applicable), a conduit, or hauling equipment. It reaches from one location to another, including:

- Manure storage/treatment facility
- Loading area
- Agricultural land for final utilization



Waste Storage Facility

(Conservation Practice Standard 313)

A Waste Storage Facility is used to temporarily store wastes (such as manure, wastewater, and contaminated runoff). The practice can be used where:

- A storage facility is a component of a planned agricultural waste management system
- It can be constructed, operated and maintained without polluting air or water resources
- Site conditions are suitable for construction of the facility
- It includes structures such as tanks, stacking facilities and holding ponds



Heavy Use Area Protection

(Conservation Practice Standard 561)

Heavy Use Area Protection is a practice that stabilizes facility areas that are intensely used by people, animals and vehicles. This standard applies on sites for waste management systems that require grading to permit drainage of surface runoff to a collection point, surfacing an area to clean a sediment basin or areas that are heavily traveled by livestock. It also applies to a roof runoff system over livestock yards to reduce the volume of polluted runoff. This standard does not apply to walls or buildings. This practice will:

- Reduce soil erosion
- Improve air quality and aesthetics
- Improve water quantity and quality
- Improve livestock health



Access Road (Conservation Practice Standard 560)

An Access Road is a travel-way for equipment and vehicles. When constructed as part of a conservation system, the road provides a fixed route for vehicular travel for management and protects adjacent natural resources.



Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (Conservation Practice Standard 380)

Windbreaks and Shelterbelts are linear plantings of single or multiple rows of trees or shrubs or sets of linear plantings. In conjunction with a confined livestock system, a windbreak can provide the following benefits:

- Improves air quality by reducing and intercepting airborne particulate matter, chemicals, and odors,
- Provides living noise screens and visual screens, and
- Provides shelter for structures or livestock.



Roof Runoff Structure (Conservation Practice Standard 558)

A Roof Runoff Structure is typically a gutter system, used as part of an agricultural waste management system to divert water from structures or contaminated areas. This practice:

- Improves runoff water quality
- Reduces soil erosion
- Minimizes the volume of contaminated wastewater requiring treatment or storage



Sediment Basin (Conservation Practice Standard 350)

A Sediment Basin is that is an erosion control measure that settles out solids from liquids from runoff to keep soil and other material in place. It Benefits include :

- Reduces pollution by storing silt, sand, gravel stone and agricultural wastes
- Improves water quality
- Prevents undesirable deposition on bottom lands and developed areas
- Traps sediments from sites



Vegetated Treatment Area (Conservation Practice Standard 635)

A Vegetated Treatment Area is designed to treat contaminated runoff from such areas as feedlots, barnyards, and other livestock holding areas. Typically, in agricultural waste management systems, a settling basin is positioned upstream of the vegetated treatment area to remove most of the solid material before applying the liquid waste water to the vegetated treatment area. As part of a waste management system, the vegetated treatment area can provide improved water quality to reduce loading of nutrients, organics, pathogens, and other contaminants associated with livestock, poultry, and other agricultural operations.

For more information on these and other practices contact your local NRCS Service Center or find us on the web at www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov