

Waste Field Storage

Alabama Guide Sheet No. AL 749



Definition

Waste field storage is the temporary outside storage of solid or semi-solid animal manure under plastic in an environmentally safe manner.

General Information

Waste field storage should be considered when:

- storage is for 180 days or less,
- storage is not normally needed on an annual basis,
- split applications of manure/litter may be needed,
- the quality of litter must be maintained for cattle feed, or
- cleanout of the confinement house must be done at a time when the waste cannot be land applied.

The temporary storage location for waste should be:

- where all surface water drains from the storage area,
- at an all-weather location,
- at least 1 foot vertically above the 25-year floodplain,
- at least 150 feet from any water source,
- at least 300 feet from a down-gradient well and 150 feet from an up-gradient well.
- at least 300 feet from other residences or public areas.

The foundation for the storage should be:

- on a naturally clayey soil, or
- on a concrete pad, or
- on a synthetic liner at least 20 mil. thick that is covered with 1 foot of soil, or
- on a compacted clayey layer at least 1 foot thick.

(NOTE: NRCS technicians can determine if the natural clayey soil is adequate and the degree of compaction required for a compacted clayey layer.)

Semi-solid manures, which stack at a lower profile than solid manure, may require the construction of small earthen berms to contain the waste. If these wastes have the potential for seepage, a liner may be required to prevent groundwater contamination.

Field stored manure/litter is to be covered with opaque plastic sheeting having a minimum thickness of 6 mil. The sheeting is to be placed tightly over the stack and berms, if required, and secured around the edges in a shallow earth-filled trench. Weighted objects, which will not damage the plastic, should be placed on the sheeting to prevent it from tearing during high winds.

Operation And Maintenance

The area for at least 20 feet around the field storage must be maintained to a dense stand of grass. Compacted clay pads used beneath the manure/litter

storage may occasionally need reconstructing if clay is inadvertently removed during the waste removal process. The plastic sheeting will be subject to damage from weather, animals, equipment, etc. Frequent inspections and prompt repairs or replacement should be made, as needed, to assure the protection of natural resources and to provide a suitable product for land application.

Any repairs needed after storm events should be immediately completed. In all cases, precipitation must not come in contact with the stored waste.

References

NRCS AL Conservation Practice Standard
Waste Field Storage - Code - 749
(formerly Code 193)

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