

Agriculture Cost Share Program

Livestock Feeding Area

Definition/Purpose

The Livestock Feeding Area is a sized concrete pad where feeders are located, surrounded by a Heavy Use Area. The Livestock Feeding Area is designed for the purpose of improving the lifespan of the heavy use area and to reduce the runoff of nutrients and fecal coliform to adjacent water bodies. The practice is to be used to address water quality concerns where livestock feeding areas are in close proximity to streams and where relocation or rotation of feeding areas is infeasible due to physical limitations (e.g., slope) and where other stream protection measures are insufficient to protect water quality.

Policies

1. Feeding areas will be employed in conjunction with heavy use area protection and a filter strip.
2. Maximum size cost shared is based on the area necessary to accommodate current herd size.
3. Maximum cost share per pad is listed in the NCACSP average cost list. This does not include the cost of other practices that are used in conjunction with the livestock feeding area.
4. A 100-foot setback from streams, creeks, and lakes shall be required.
5. This practice must be in conjunction with the exclusion of livestock from streams and inclusive of alternative watering sources, where applicable.
6. Minimum life expectancy is ten (10) years.
7. The installation of the Livestock Feeding Area will be contingent on the design approval from the NRCS area engineer, Division engineer, or a qualified professional engineer.
8. Water leaving the site must leave the site as diffuse flow.
9. Any additional area needed to accommodate the producer's equipment and/or desires will be at the producer's expense. The additional area must be stipulated on the design and not receive cost share assistance. For example, if the operator stores equipment other than waste handling equipment in the structure and the design plan did not stipulate that the area of the designed structure was increased at the producer's expense, then the operator is out of compliance.

Specifications

NC NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, Specification #575 (Animal Trails and Walkways), # 342 (Critical Area Planting), #382 (Fencing), #393 (Filter Strip), #561 (Heavy Use Area Protection), #574 (Spring Development), #728 (Stream Crossing), #642 (Water Well), #614 (Watering Facility), # 528A (Prescribed Grazing), and #590 (Nutrient Management).