

## Heavy Use Area Protection

### Definition/Purpose

Heavy Use Area Protection means an area used frequently and intensively by animals which must be stabilized by surfacing with suitable materials to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved, particulate, and sediment-attached substances. (DIP)

### Policies

1. When Heavy Use Area Protection is employed in conjunction with feeding areas and barn lots, a filter strip must be established before the practice is eligible for cost-sharing. **Heavy Use Area Protection is not approved for access roads.**
2. The requirement of fencing around a heavy use area is to be left to the technical staff as to whether it is needed.
3. Livestock exclusion in conjunction with heavy use area protection measures (**loafing lots, barns, feeding stations, watering facilities, stock trails, etc.**) **will be required to have a minimum set-back of 20 feet from the top of the stream bank.** A statement must be included on the contract indicating the established setback distance from the stream bank and must also indicate distance on sketch included with contract.
4. Heavy use areas which are components of .0200 waste management plans must meet additional buffer requirements as prescribed in the Interagency Guidance Memorandum.
5. Minimum life of BMP is ten (10) years.
6. Structural geotextiles shall meet the requirements of "Construction Specification 217 - Geotextiles" and "Interim Material Specification 592 - Geotextiles". Drainage geotextiles shall meet the requirements of N.C. Technical Guide, Section IV Practice Standard 606, as shown in paragraph 606-8-5.

### Standards

N.C. Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Technical Guide. Section IV. Standards #561 (Heavy Use Area Protection) and #382 (Fence).