

Retrofit of On-Going Animal Operations

Definition/Purpose

Retrofits of On-Going Animal Operations are modifications of structures to increase storage or to correct design flaws to meet current standards. This practice may also be used to close waste impoundments on on-going operations, including the safe removal of existing waste and waste water and the application of this waste on land in an environmentally safe manner. (DIP)

Policies

Existing, on-going operations which desire to close or retrofit existing unlined waste impoundments in order to meet current standards, regulations, or rules are eligible for cost share reimbursement under the following guidelines:

1. Closure/retrofit of waste impoundments must adhere to the following guidelines:
 - a. For waste impoundments, Cost Share Program funds will be used for the removal/disposal of waste only (not for fill materials), and for stabilization of site. Removal of foreign materials will be at the landowner's expense and must be removed according to state and federal guidelines. Costs for closure are limited to 75% of actual cost. Receipts and a copy of the waste analysis report must accompany Requests for Payments (NC-ACSP-3).

Breaching of any diked or dammed structures is optional; however all disturbed areas will be vegetated to permanent grass, trees, or wildlife plantings. NCACSP policies and NRCS Standards will apply to all vegetated areas.

The District or a Technical Specialist shall prepare the closure plan in accordance with the current standards promulgated by the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service and the State, using the NC Nutrient Management Software program, version 3.0.9 or later. The plan must address removal of transfer pipes and installation of a spillway, if needed. The planned waste application may not cause excessive zinc or copper soil levels nor exceed the crops' timely nitrogen uptake.

- b. For retrofitted waste impoundments, Cost Share Program funds may be used for removal/disposal of waste and other components necessary to bring the lagoon/waste storage pond up to current NRCS Standards. A copy of the waste analysis report must accompany Requests for Payments (NC-ACSP-3). Funds may also be used to make the required structural upgrades (clay liner, emergency spillway, etc.) and for required compaction test.
2. A statement, signed by the technician, certifying that the operation has an approved waste management plan is required (see Section VI for form NC-ACSP-WMP and policies listed on Page V-17 of this manual for additional guidance).
3. The removal of trees is a correction for a lack of maintenance and is not considered a retrofit.

Agriculture Cost Share Program

4. BMP soil impact is not required on this BMP. Include the amount of fresh manure in nitrogen and phosphorus units, which will be generated and properly managed under the waste management system. Also include the number of acres affected, animal type, and animal units.
5. Minimum life for the retrofit of an on-going animal operation is ten (10) years.

Standards

N.C. NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, #590 (Nutrient Management) and #360 (Closure of Waste Impoundments).