

Heavy Use Area Protection

Definition/Purpose

A 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 erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved, particulate, and sediment-attached substances. (DIP)

Policies

1. When the Heavy Use Protection Area is employed as or in conjunction with feeding areas and barn lots, it must be located 100 feet from surface water and a vegetated filter must be established before the practice is eligible for cost-sharing. The NRCS NC Feeding Site Assessment Tool shall be used to determine appropriate feeding site location. A concrete heavy use area is recommended for feeding sites, but depending on site conditions, cloth and gravel may be substituted.
2. **Heavy Use Area Protection is not to be used as a substitute for access roads.**
3. The requirement of fencing around a heavy use area is to be left to the technical staff as to whether it is needed.
4. Livestock exclusion fencing in conjunction with heavy use area protection measures (waste storage structures, loafing lots, barns, feeding stations, watering facilities, stock trails, etc.) will be required to have a minimum setback of 20 feet from the top of the stream bank. Refer to Stream Protection Management or Waste and Nutrient Management Measures General Policy for fencing setback requirements and documentation.
5. Conservation planners should consider stable access to the heavy use area.
6. A waste management plan that meets NRCS standards is required for all waste and nutrient management measure contracts. The plan must be revised, if necessary, to meet any changes in the operation which alter the waste management needs of the operation.
7. Heavy use areas that are components of 15A NCAC 02T .1300 waste management plans must meet additional buffer requirements, if required, as prescribed in the 1217 Interagency Guidance Document.

HEAVY USE AREA PROTECTION	
Maintenance Period	10 years
BMP Units	EACH
Required Effects	ACRES_AFFECTED ANIMAL TYPE ANIMAL UNITS N and P Waste Managed (for Waste and Nutrient Management Measures)

Agriculture Cost Share Program

JAA	ENG - 561 - Heavy Use Area Protection
NRCS Standards and Reference Materials	ENG - 561 - Heavy Use Area Protection ENG - 382 - Fence National Engineering Handbook, Construction Specification 217 - Geotextiles and Material Specification 592 - Geotextiles
CS2 Reference Materials	NC-ACSP-11 Signature Page Map with BMP location, fields, and roads Waste Management Plan (for Waste and Nutrient Management Measures)
Additional Spot-check Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All waste and nutrient management systems for operations not permitted by the Division of Water Resources must be spot-checked annually for five years following implementation.• Heavy Use Area Protection BMPs for Stream Protection Management do not have additional spot-check requirements.