



Manure Storage Structure

These structures are used to store manure produced by poultry or livestock until conditions are right for field application or transport can be arranged.

Description

The type of storage structure selected depends on the livestock operation, animal waste management system and nutrient management plan. Manure can be pumped, scraped and hauled, pushed or flushed into a storage structure. These structures safely contain manure in order to minimize nutrient loss, prevent runoff and protect water quality.

Benefits

- Protects water quality.
- Allows for animal waste field application in accordance with a nutrient management plan.
- Cuts fertilizer costs by reducing nutrient losses.
- Protects manure designated for transport.

Planning

- Is the structure planned for the proper location? Consider the landscape, potential odor problems, sensitive resources, visibility, aesthetic value and compatibility with existing farm buildings.
- Will the structure store manure in a form that can be handled using existing equipment?
- Will buffers or filter strips be planted around the structure?

- Is the structure the right size to handle the amount of manure produced?

Tech Notes

- The storage period should be determined by the nutrient management plan's manure use schedule.
- If manure is stored as a solid, it should be protected from precipitation.
- Runoff from surrounding land and buildings should be diverted away from storage structures.
- In-ground structures must be fenced to protect livestock and human safety.
- Ramps built for handling equipment need to meet safety standards.
- Follow NRCS specifications.

Maintenance

- Do not fill the structure above the planned storage capacity. Overfilled structures are a safety hazard and can cause significant environmental problems if they fail.
- Watch for any leaks or seepage and make repairs as needed.
- Repair damaged fences immediately.