WASTE TREATMENT LAGOON
(CODE 359)

DESCRIPTION

An impoundment made by excavation, earth fill, or a combination of both for the biological treatment of animal or other agricultural waste.

PURPOSE

To develop a waste management system that will provide biological treatment and storage of animal waste until it can be safely utilized on cropland. This practice should be implemented where it is necessary to prevent potential pollutants from animal wastes or wastewater from reaching the waters of the State.

CONDITION

Apply this practice to areas on farmland where animal wastes or wastewater from dairy operations constitute a significant pollution hazard or to livestock operations where wastewater or rainwater runoff is contributing to a water quality problem.

POLICIES

1. The practice must be installed on the same farm parcel as where the animal waste is generated.

2. A minimum of fifteen (15) animal units must regularly use or occupy the area being addressed. Operations with eight (8) to fourteen (14) animal units may be eligible based on the animal unit cost-effectiveness (SECTION V, # 7).

3. Cost-sharing is authorized for:
   a. Collection basins and settling basins utilizing aerobic or anaerobic treatment.
   b. Storage and diversion facilities which will contribute significantly to maintaining or improving soil conservation or water quality.
   c. Measures needed as part of the system to convey animal wastes or wastewater (e.g. diversions, channels, waterways, outlet structures, or piping).
   d. The installation of underground piping to convey rainwater away from livestock areas and the Waste Treatment Lagoon. Reasonable precautions must be taken at the point of discharge to prevent erosion problems.
   e. Leveling and filling to permit the installation of an effective system; vegetative cover (including mulching) to protect the area surrounding the Lagoon.
   f. Roof guttering and down spouting (Code 558) as part of a Waste Treatment.
g. An agricultural waste fence only if essential to a particular waste storage project for the safety of livestock or humans.

h. Permanently installed equipment needed as an integral part of the system.

4. Cost-sharing is not authorized for:
   
a. Measures primarily for the prevention or abatement of air pollution, unless the measures also have soil and water conservation benefits.

b. Portable pumps, pumping equipment or other portable equipment; equipment for spreading animal wastes on the land.

c. Buildings or modifications to buildings; portions of a waste treatment lagoon installed under or attached to a building which serves as part of the building or its foundation.

d. Animal waste facilities that do not meet local or State regulations.

e. Installations intended primarily for the operator’s convenience.

5. A current Waste Management System Plan (WMSP), according to NRCS Standards and Specifications, must be signed by the applicant and the District Conservationist and accompany the MACS Water Quality Project form. The WMSP must be farm-specific and include information on the situation, problem, geographic area, Nutrient Management Plan (NMP), system components, component details, waste utilization, installation timetable, and structure operation and maintenance.

6. The applicant and the farm’s Nutrient Management Plan must be in compliance with Maryland’s Nutrient Management regulations (COMAR 15.20.08) at the time of Application. No Applications will be approved without a Nutrient Management Plan Certification Form submitted with the Application (SECTION III, #30).

7. If the applicant is certain to increase her or his animal capacity within the next six months, and if the applicant will document that fact in writing to the Department’s satisfaction, cost-share may be approved for manure storage capacity based on the total new animal capacity on the farm. The SCD must document the animal capacity increase on the Certificate of Imminent Start-up or Expansion of a Livestock Operation form and submit this form (SECTION III, #19) with the MACS Water Quality Project form. The department will not process the MACS Claim for Payment until the SCD certifies in writing that the expansion has occurred and that the additional or new animals have been placed on the farm.

8. MACS requires the placement of any waste storage structure, including any Waste Treatment Lagoon, to be a minimum of 100 feet from streams, drainage ditches and other surface waters, wells, and sink holes. No exceptions will be made for new operations. Exceptions for existing operations may be allowed when constraints posed by the site and
existing infrastructure prevent placement outside the 100-foot setback. Exceptions, including expansions, will be considered on a case-by-case basis. A SCD Certification for 100 Foot Set-Back Exception form (SECTION III, # 11) and identification of protective measures to maintain water quality must be included with the application.

9. Applicants are required to keep their WMSP and NMP updated and current throughout the maintenance life of any animal waste treatment or containment project. These updates are the responsibility of the applicant and landowners, and the District and/or the nutrient management consultant provides assistance. The District is responsible to verify the applicant has a current Waste Management System Plan.

10. NRCS Standards and Specifications for Waste Treatment Lagoon (Code 359) shall be followed when applying this practice.

11. This practice shall be properly maintained and operated for a minimum of fifteen (15) years. The applicant agrees to provide all equipment, labor and materials needed to meet this requirement.

COST-SHARE RATE

The State cost-share payment shall not exceed 87.5% of the total eligible cost, not to exceed the cumulative maximum allowed for animal waste treatment and containment BMPs of $200,000.00 per project.

ATTACHMENTS

*Applicant(s) with an outstanding Unsatisfactory On-Farm Status Review of previous project(s) may be ineligible for MACS Cost-Share funding. When a previous project expires with outstanding unsatisfactory status, the applicant is ineligible for any future MACS funding.*

*The following items are needed:*

1. A copy of a recorded deed(s) for the parcel(s) where the BMP is located. If the current, appropriate deed is already on file in the MACS Office, then record both the agreement number of the file where the deed is kept and the liber/folio numbers in the General Comments section of the application.

2. A copy of the Real Property Data Search page from the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation’s website ([www.dat.maryland.gov](http://www.dat.maryland.gov)) indicating the Maryland Property View Account ID Number and owner information.

3. An aerial photograph indicating the property lines as well as all existing and proposed BMPs.

4. A plan view sketch graphically demonstrating the layout and details of the proposed BMP including location of existing/proposed structures and landscape features including distance(s) (in feet) to streams and drainage ditches.
5. Worksheet to determine storage requirement.

6. A farm-specific Waste Management System Plan which includes information on the site, problem, geographic area, NMP, system components, component details, waste utilization, installation timetable, structure operation and maintenance. This document must be signed by the District Conservationist and the applicant and/or operator.

7. Certification of Imminent Start-up or Expansion of a Livestock Growing Operation (SECTION III, # 19) if applicable.

8. Nutrient Management Plan Certification Form shall be submitted with the Application (SECTION III, #30).

9. 100 Foot Set-Back SCD Certification for Exception form (SECTION III, #11) if required.