

**ROOFS AND COVERS  
(CODE 367)**

**DESCRIPTION**

A rigid, semi-rigid, or flexible manufactured membrane, composite material, or roof structure placed over a heavy-use area protection.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this practice is to provide a roof or cover for water quality protection and improvement by diverting clean water from animal management areas, Heavy Use Areas - 561 (i.e., barnyard, feedlot, or exercise area).

**CONDITION**

This practice applies where the exclusion of precipitation from an outdoor animal management area, waste storage facility, or waste treatment facility will improve the management of an existing or planned animal waste handling system or eliminate a pollution concern.

**POLICIES**

1. In cases of Roofs and Covers over a Heavy Use Area Protection where animal waste accumulates, the location of the area must be such that the delivery of contaminated runoff to local streams or waterways has the potential to occur in the absence of this proper BMP. A minimum of **fifteen (15)** animal units must regularly use or occupy the area being protected, cost-share funds will be based on applicable flat rates and plus project and farm limits. Operations with **one (1) to less than fifteen (15)** animal units (AU) may be eligible based on the animal unit pro-rated cost-eligibility formulas. (SECTION III, *Water Quality Project Application Instructions*, #44B).
2. To qualify for this practice, a required minimum of 20 square feet of housing, per animal unit, must be available or provided by the applicant. This area must be used solely as housing (not storage) for the duration of the maintenance life of the practice.
3. Cost-sharing is authorized for any construction of a roof or cover up to 60 square feet per animal unit for a minimum required total of 80 contiguous square feet per animal unit. A minimum required total of 65 square feet per animal unit may be used with prior approval by NRCS. If 80 square feet of a covered housing currently exists, then cost-sharing may be authorized by the MACS Administrator only for the construction of up to an additional 20 square feet per animal unit.
4. Cost-sharing is authorized for the required waste storage/management provided compliant with the Waste Management System Plan (WMSP).
5. This practice will be applied on farms where animal waste from existing heavily used animal areas poses a significant water quality problem. A Critical Condition (defined in COMAR 15.01.05.02.C) must exist to be eligible for cost-share.

6. Cost-sharing *is authorized* for the following as deemed necessary by the SCD:
  - a. Fencing (382), Stream Crossing, (578), Diversion (362), Grade Stabilization Structure (410), Grassed Waterway (412), Lined Waterway or Outlet (468), and Roof Runoff Structure (558), Critical Area Planting (342), establishment of a permanent vegetative cover as buffer strips, if required, according to the criteria for Filter Strips (393).
  - b. Preparation of surface and subsurface drainage mechanisms, as well as the utilization of lime, fertilizer, seed, straw mulch, and mulch anchoring for establishing permanent vegetative cover.
  - c. Earth fill, excavation, compacting, and grading operations necessary to establish the base course, including the use of gravel, crushed stone, a geotextile, or other suitable materials.
  - d. Materials such as erosion control netting, matting, staples, filter cloth, rock riprap, geoweb, box inlets, subsurface drains, and culverts for runoff control measures.
  - e. Surface treatment using materials such as concrete, gravel, or other materials in order to provide a stable, wearing surface.
7. When applying for cost-sharing under this practice, *all* components and their associated NRCS code numbers will be included under Section II of the MACS Water Quality Project Form. For example, if applying for a Roof or Cover, Heavy Use Area Protection, a Diversion, and a Grassed Waterway, then NRCS codes 367, 561, 362, and 412 must be listed on the application.
8. The storage of mobile and non-mobile equipment or supplies is prohibited. However, the mobile *farm* equipment used to scrape the HUA routinely will be permitted, only if it does not affect compliance with the Waste Management System Plan for the farm.
9. If an animal waste management system (Animal Waste Treatment and Containment Project) received MACS cost-share funding, the cubic foot volume ceiling rate eligibility cap for this waste storage structure project will be verified, and the remaining balance of eligible cost-share can be applied towards the proposed Roofs and Covers (367).
10. Cost-sharing is *not authorized* for the following:
  - a. Any construction or portion thereof that is greater than 60 square feet per animal unit.
  - b. Any roof construction of eaves or overhangs greater than three (3) feet.
  - c. Any construction of a peak overshot greater than a standard roof area (square feet).
  - d. The roof or cover may not be structurally attached to any existing structure.

- e. Prescribed Grazing (Code 528) or Access Road (Code 560).
- f. Replacement, repair, relocation, or installation of any utilities such as water, sewer, electric, gas, or telephone.
- g. Repair, replacement, modification, or relocation of any building.
- h. Replacement or reconstruction of other attached, existing BMPs, unless such replacement or reconstruction is essential to the proper functioning of the proposed Heavy Use Area.

11. A current Waste Management System Plan (WMSP), developed 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.

12. 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).

13. 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 landowner. The District and/or a nutrient management consultant may provide technical assistance. The District is responsible for verifying the applicant has a current Waste Management System Plan.

14. For a start-up operation or expansion to increase the 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 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 Poultry-Growing Operation form or Certificate of Imminent Start-up or Expansion of a Livestock Operation form (SECTION III, #19 or # 20) and submit this form with the MACS Water Quality Project form. *Start-up or expansion operations are eligible for 50% cost-share.*

15. MACS will initiate an On-Farm Status Review (Spot Check) six months following the completion of any project subject to the Certificate Imminent Start-Up or Expansion form.

16. An operation and maintenance plan shall be developed in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications.

17. NRCS Standards and Specifications for Roofs and Covers (367) and Heavy Use Area (Code 561) shall be followed when applying these practices.

18. This practice must be properly maintained for a minimum of fifteen (15) years. At a minimum, the following measures shall be carried out for the life of the practice:
  - a. Inspect areas surrounding the Roofed/Covered Heavy Use Area after each major runoff event, and repair promptly as needed.
  - b. Maintain grass areas in adequate cover. Reseed and mow as needed, according to the operation and maintenance plan.
  - c. Fill in low areas and regrade, as needed, to maintain area integrity, using like materials as originally installed.
19. If MACS cost-share funding was received for an Animal Waste Treatment and Containment Project and if supporting practices (367, 558, and 561) were not installed with the initial waste storage structure, the total eligible cost, not to exceed \$200,000 per project, and the cubic foot volume ceiling rate eligibility cap, is still applicable. The remaining balance of eligible cost-share can be applied towards the proposed Roofs and Covers (367), Roof Runoff Structure (558), and Heavy Use Area Protection (561).
20. **MACS defines Animal Waste Treatment and Containment Projects to include Practice Codes 313, 316, 359, 367, 558, and 561 to solve a single water quality problem. The waste storage facility and supporting practices are part of a Waste Management System Plan (WMSP), and the total cost is not to exceed \$200,000 per project.**

#### **ADDITIONAL POLICIES FOR ROOFS AND COVERS – HEAVY USE AREA PROTECTION (561)**

1. This practice must be properly maintained *without* additional cost-share during the (367) maintenance life of a minimum of fifteen (15) years. The applicant agrees to provide all equipment, labor, and materials needed to meet this requirement.
2. A Roof or Cover (367) may only be built over a Heavy Use Area constructed of concrete.
3. Any existing Heavy Use Area must meet NRCS Standards and Specifications (561). A status review is to be completed for any Heavy Use Areas to be covered and submitted with the application.
4. A signed “Provisions for Heavy Use Area Protection (561), and/or, Roof and Covers (367)” sheet; Calculation Sheet; Roof Diagram Sheet; and Application Tool must accompany the application.

**COST-SHARE RATE**

For Roofs and Covers, the State cost-share payment will not exceed 87.5% of the total eligible cost, not to exceed \$150,000 per project.

*Note: If the proposed Roofs and Covers (367) is part of an animal waste management system (Animal Waste Treatment and Containment Project) that includes Practice Codes 313, 316, 359, 367, 558, and 561 to solve a single water quality problem, the State cost-share payment will not exceed 87.5% of the total eligible cost, not to exceed \$200,000 per project, that is based on the cubic foot volume ceiling rate eligibility cap of the waste storage structure.*

## **ATTACHMENTS**

***Applicant(s) with an outstanding Unsatisfactory On-Farm Status Review of BMP Maintenance and Use 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.***

*Attachments - 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 # 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 dimensioned plan view sketch of the area indicating the location of the proposed BMP and graphically demonstrating the layout and details of the project.
5. A farm-specific WMSP, which includes information on the situation, problem, geographic area, system components, component details, waste utilization, installation timetable, and structure operation and maintenance. This document must be signed by the District Conservationist and the applicant and/or operator.
6. Nutrient Management Plan Certification Form shall be submitted with the Application (SECTION III, #30).
7. If this practice is being constructed on a Heavy Use Area, attach the form *Provisions for Heavy Use Area Protection and/or, Roof and Covers (367)* (SECTION III, #17).