

# Common Conservation Practices

## Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning

Surface and ground water run-off has potential to create water quality concerns. The following conservation practices listed below, are all used to contain, utilize, and manage manure. These practices can be combined to create a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) to address your specific resource concerns.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is the principal program of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for delivering financial assistance to private landowners. Contact a local NRCS office for free technical assistance to develop a conservation plan and a current practice payment schedule (prices) through EQIP.



### Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility (Sediment Basin) (632)

- Shallow depression at a lower elevation than feedlot.
- Designed to let solids settle out before water is released to a designated area.
- Typically holds water for 12-24 hours.
- Trash screen helps trap solids.
- Concrete surfaces allow for easier solids removal.



### Waste Storage Facility (313)

- Used to store manure and/or wastewater.
- Periods between pumpout can range from 1-5 years. (evaporation or annual).
- Interior is clay or synthetic lined.
- Interior is lined with an 18" thick clay liner or geosynthetic membrane.
- Typical footprint is 2-4 acres.



### Vegetated Treatment Area (VTA) (635)

- Area is used for wastewater infiltration from sediment basin.
- Seeded to grass or a perennial crop.
- Hay production is allowed.
- Typically has a one to three percent slope (six percent maximum).
- Can be sprinkler or surface application.
- Area is used to manage wastewater leaving the settling basin.



### Diversion (362)

- Used to keep clean water from entering the feedlot.
- Pipe, earthen berm or channel.
- Reduces amount of wastewater in the feedlot and containment system.

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### Anaerobic Digester (366)

- Biological degradation of organic material in the absence of air.
- Provides volume and mass reduction.
- The energy can be converted to heat and electricity.



### Roofs and Covers (367)

- Diverts clean water from feeding areas and manure storages.
- Also includes covers to capture bio-gas or improve air quality.



### Nutrient Management (590)

- Proper application and use of manure and/or commercial fertilizer.
- Follow 4R's (Right Rate, Right Time; Right Place; Right Source).



### Waste Transfer (634)

- Utilizes pipes or channels to move manure/wastewater to a holding pond or vegetative treatment area.
- Manure pump, reception pit, and slurry pump with agitator.



### Windbreak/Shelterbelt (380)

- Reduce soil erosion from wind.
- Enhance wildlife habitat.
- Provide visual screens.
- Reduce odor.
- Manage snow deposition.
- Protect livestock from inclement weather.



### Animal Mortality Facility (316)

- Used to compost mortalities, usually for swine or poultry.
- Can be either a lumber structure, concrete bins, or a slab-on-grade that requires either a roof or runoff containment structure.

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