

# Manure Storage



Structure that stores manure until conditions are appropriate for field application.

## How it works

The type of manure storage structure you use depends upon your livestock operation, animal

waste management system and planned field application. Several options exist including an earthen storage pond, above or below ground tank, pit underneath a confinement facility or a sheltered concrete slab area. Manure can be pumped, scraped and hauled, pushed or flushed into your storage structure. The structure's purpose is to safely contain the manure and keep nutrient loss and pollution of downstream water bodies to a minimum by preventing runoff.

## How it helps

- Protects water quality, by preventing runoff from feedlots.
- Cuts fertilizer costs and reduces nutrient losses.
- Allows for field application when conditions are right.

## Planning ahead

- Is the structure planned for the proper location considering the landscape, potential odor problems, visibility, aesthetic value and compatibility with existing farm buildings?
- Will the structure store manure in a form you have the equipment to handle?
- Are there buffer zones of vegetation around the structure to filter any runoff and to improve appearance?

- Is the structure the right size to handle the amount of manure produced by your livestock during the planned storage period?

## Tech notes

- Storage period should be determined by manure use schedule. Plan to empty at least twice a year.
- If manure is stored as a solid, it should be protected from precipitation.
- Runoff from land surrounding livestock facilities should be diverted from storage structures.
- Structures should be fenced for livestock and human safety.
- Ramps built for handling equipment should meet safety standards.

## Maintenance

- Watch for any leaks or seepage and make repairs.
- Repair any damaged fences immediately.

## Key to Benefit Symbols

### Benefit symbols



This practice helps reduce soil erosion and sediment runoff, or may add organic matter to the soil.



You're thinking of wildlife by providing habitat or food sources with this practice.



Use this practice to increase profits by reducing costs, increasing production or both.



Help protect or improve water quality with this practice.



This practice helps improve air quality by reducing odor and other problems.