

Subpart D - Technology

MN537.01 NRCS technical assistance for environmental engineering.

(c) MN NRCS Assistance on Agricultural Waste Management Systems.

(1) Assistance for MPCA Open Lot Agreements (OLA's). In accordance with the following stipulations, NRCS may provide technical assistance on OLA's for feedlot pollution abatement.

(i) NRCS must plan a full solution for pollution abatement. A detailed engineering plan is not required; however, enough investigation must be done to determine the feasibility of the pollution abatement plan. The plan for the full solution must be presented to the producer and documented in the file. The following items must be included in the plan:

1. Pollution problem evaluation.
2. Solutions or alternatives considered to solve problem.
3. A statement that the practices installed under the OLA's are not considered adequate to solve the pollution problem.

(ii) Technical assistance for OLA's is limited to clean water runoff management practices. Technical assistance for other practices such as vegetative filters, or waste storage facilities may only be provided as part of a complete pollution abatement system that meets the Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784) Interim Standard. Components installed for OLA's must meet the individual practice standards for those components.

(2) Stray Voltage Protection.

(i) The National Electric Code requires that concrete floors and structures in livestock confinement areas have wire mesh or other conductive elements installed in them that are bonded to the electrical grounding system. Confinement areas both inside buildings and outdoors such as open lots are included. Areas that do not contain electrically supplied equipment or systems are not required to comply; however, they may require a voltage gradient from an adjacent area.

(ii) Construction drawings that include concrete components that require an equipotential plane under the National Electrical Code must contain the following statement:

"Wire mesh and reinforcing steel embedded in concrete placed as part of this construction drawing must be bonded and grounded in accordance with the National Electrical Code. All bonding and grounding must be approved by a State Electrical Inspector prior to concrete placement."

The request for electrical inspection serial number shall be included as part of the construction documentation.

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(3) NRCS may provide technical assistance for non-permitted waste storage facilities under the following circumstances:

1. For facilities originally designed and construction certified by the NRCS but a permit was not obtained at the time of construction.
2. For preliminary investigations to determine if the storage facility is a pollution hazard that would qualify for financial or technical assistance from NRCS. Preliminary investigations do not provide borings of adequate depth or spacing to be used for final design purposes.
3. As part of a pollution abatement plan where work is needed to rehabilitate liners or abandon an existing storage facility to correct a pollution problem that currently exists.
4. Assistance for soil investigations should only be provided on sites where NRCS will be preparing a final design.