



Livestock Waste Management and Conservation

Closure/Rehabilitation of Waste Storage Facilities

Tennessee CAFO Factsheet #16

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As part of the permitting requirements, a closure/rehabilitation plan of waste storage facilities must be submitted with the permit application. The purpose of a closure plan is to ensure the safe closure of waste impoundments that are no longer used for their intended purpose. They must be closed in accordance with NRCS standards that ensure protection of surface water quality and groundwater resources; eliminates a safety hazard for humans and livestock; and safeguard public health. The closure plan should address how the manure, sludge, litter or wastewater will be disposed and the conversion of the storage pond or lagoon into a freshwater pond or whether it will be backfilled.

When closing a manure storage pond or lagoon, all manure, sludge, litter or wastewater that is removed must be land-applied in accordance with a nutrient management plan so that nutrients are applied at agronomic rates. Liquid and slurry wastes must be agitated and pumped to the extent conventional pumping will allow. Sludge remaining on the bottom and sides of a lagoon or pond may remain in place if it will not pose a threat to the environment. However, if the impoundment is to be converted to fresh water storage, then it must meet the appropriate NRCS conservation practice standard.

For more information regarding closure or rehabilitation of a waste-storage facility, contact your local NRCS conservationist.