Heavy Use Area (561) Requirement Sheet

2012 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Eligibility: Livestock Operations

Purpose: To provide planning guidance for using Heavy Use Area scenarios in arriving at least cost alternative to address resource concern.

Requirements: Resource concerns exist such that stabilization is needed where areas are denuded and eroded site conditions exist from animal concentrations next to surface water bodies where livestock obtain drinking water, feed, or in high traffic areas around confined animal feeding operations. Adverse impacts are occurring to surface water bodies adversely impacting water quality and animal health.

Use of concrete heavy use areas should be the last alternative for pasture based beef operations and must be approved by Area Resource Conservationist and Area Engineer. Roof and concrete are only eligible when an open site away from sensitive areas is not available. In lieu of concrete and roofing complimentary practices such as Access Roads and Animal Trails and Walkways can be approved by the Area Engineer and Area Resource Conservationist for access to the best livestock feeding site that rates "Medium or Low" risk in the *Livestock Feeding Assessment* in the *Grazing Tools* spreadsheet.

For use of the last two scenarios below on winter feeding beef sites where storage of manure and wasted feed is necessary, the following special requirements must be met:

1. The best available livestock feeding site(s) on the farm must have been identified as resource concern on CPA-52 form. A "High Risk" rating using *Livestock Feeding Assessment* would justify a resource concern.
2. Must achieve "Low Risk" rating using *Livestock Feeding Assessment* to be eligible for concrete and roofing under Waste Facility Cover practice.
3. A CNMP is required. Landowner must be informed that the CNMP can become a regulatory document regulated by EPA regardless of the size of operation.

Scenario	Description
Gravel	Typical 24 ft x 24 ft x 8 in thickness of compacted gravel/crusher run underlain by geotextile Typical situation is in pasture setting where small herds (< 30 head) need small winter feeding area away from surface water bodies. This pad is usually shared by 2 or more rotated pastures and has good grass or other filter area between it and water conveyance.
Gravel Access Ramp (paid by width of ramp times length of ramp, i.e., 12' wide by 48' equals 576 sf)	Typical scenario will provide a stable livestock access to surface water with a 5:1 slope or flatter gravel/geo access ramp. Side slopes into watering area are protected from high flows or livestock access by riprap (D50=8") on 2:1 side slope. Typical ramp is 12 ft wide x 48 ft long with 8 in thickness of compacted gravel underlain by geotextile. Used in conjunction with exclusion fence. Floating fence or gates are sometimes utilized at the end of the ramp to control livestock. Also, exclusion fence is used to control livestock access at the top of bank and in adjacent areas.
Concrete Slab (non-reinforced)	This scenario addresses stabilizing soil areas where livestock are fed, typically during winter months. Typical herd size is small to medium (~30 to 50 head). It addresses protection of the soil water resources by installation of a non-reinforced 4 inch thick

	concrete slab for the purpose of feeding hay and/or other designated heavy use. The typical slab dimensions used for this scenario are 24 ft x 24 ft x 4 in thick, non-reinforced 4,000 psi concrete (fiber or welded wire fabric included) with 3 inch thick compacted gravel base (#57 stone) underneath. Waste materials are removed periodically from the pad with small front end loader tractor and land applied at appropriate times. This practice is typically associated with pasture grazing operations and would be located to serve 2 or more pastures.
Concrete Slab with curb (reinforced)	This scenario addresses stabilizing areas intensively used by larger herds (> 50 head) of livestock typically concentrated year round where manure and wasted feed are collected/transferred very frequently (daily to every other day) to storage facility. The concrete HUA is designed to support heavy equipment loads for manure management. The typical slab dimensions used for this scenario are 40 ft x 100 ft x 5 in thick reinforced concrete with 3 inch thick compacted gravel base (#57 stone) underneath. It provides a permanent area of steel reinforced 5" thick concrete (typically #4 or #5 rebar on 12" centers). A 12 inch tall by 8 inch wide reinforced concrete curb is included around the perimeter of the slab to contain scraped waste materials for transport to storage facility. This practice is typically associated with confined animal feeding operation where temporary storage is needed so that nutrients can be applied at maximum crop utilization periods, but can be considered for larger herds (>50 head) on a multi- pasture grazing system where animals are managed in controlled central area for winter feeding and lounging. A Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) would usually address use of this scenario on a confined animal feeding operation.
Concrete (reinforced) curb on existing slab	This scenario addresses the placement of a 12 inch tall by 8 inch wide reinforced concrete curb around an existing concrete slab to aid in manure management and utilization. The curb is typically reinforced with # 4 or #5 steel bars. This practice is typically associated with confined animal feeding operation where temporary storage is needed so that nutrients can be applied at maximum crop utilization periods, but can be considered for larger herds (> 50 head) on multiple pasture-based grazing systems where animals are managed in controlled central area for winter feeding and lounging. A Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) would usually address use of this scenario on a confined animal feeding operation.

Producer requirements for payment:

Install practice according NRCS plans and specifications. Payment is made following certification by appropriate NRCS staff with engineering job approval authority or acceptance by NRCS staff that system was installed as designed and certified by TSP and applicable NRCS standards and specifications.