



April 2010

W087-New Construction on CAFOs and Construction of New CAFOs

The University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service

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Recommended Citation

"W087-New Construction on CAFOs and Construction of New CAFOs," The University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service, http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_agexani/56

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Livestock Waste Management and Conservation

New Construction on CAFOs & Construction of New CAFOs (Class I & II – Large and Medium CAFOs)

Tennessee CAFO Factsheet #8

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Any liquid waste management system that is constructed, modified, repaired or placed into operation after April 13, 2006 must be designed, constructed, operated and maintained in accordance with final design plans and specifications that meet or exceed standards in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide and other guidelines as accepted by the Departments of Environment and Conservation, or Agriculture.

Specifically, any new or additional confinement buildings, waste/wastewater handling system, waste/wastewater transport structures, waste/wastewater treatment structures, settling basins, lagoons, holding ponds, sumps or pits, and other agricultural waste containment/treatment structures must be located in accordance with NRCS standards to minimize the potential for contamination of streams (see Table 1). In addition, a subsurface investigation must be performed before construction of an earthen holding pond, pit, sump, treatment lagoon or other earthen storage/containment structure and liner requirements must be a component of the system design. The subsurface investigation must include a detailed soils investigation with special attention to the water table depth and seepage potential. The investigation must evaluate soils to a depth of 2 feet below the planned bottom grade of the storage structure. Deeper investigations

may be required in karst regions. A soils/geologic investigation shall be performed by a soil scientist and qualified geologist (a registered professional geologist licensed by the state of Tennessee or an individual who meets the requirements for the title of certified professional geologist, as defined by the American Institute of Professional Geologists). Unless relevant information is available to the contrary, compliance with this provision during design and construction of the facility will normally demonstrate that the hydrologic connection does not exceed a maximum allowable specific discharge of 0.0028 ft/day (1×10^{-6} cm/sec).

In addition to regulations regarding waste storage and handling, any construction project on a farm that will disturb one acre of land or more will require a Stormwater Construction Permit from the state of Tennessee. Please refer to the Livestock Waste Management and Conservation Web site

<http://animalscience.ag.utk.edu/WasteManagement/WasteManagement.htm>

for more information regarding these permits.

Table 1. Minimum Distance Requirements for Waste Storage Facilities. From Tennessee NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 313, Waste Storage Facility.

Public or Private Use Facilities	Minimum Distance from Waste Storage Facility
Any public use area, church, picnic area, playground, etc.	300 feet
Residence or place of habitation other than owner or tenant	300 feet
Potable wells, private	200 feet
Potable wells, public	300 feet
Perennial streams	100 feet
Area specified by state or local ordinance	Greater of state or local distance or distance shown above