

Conservation Practice Standard Overview

Roofs and Covers (367)

A roofs and covers system consists of a rigid, semirigid, or flexible manufactured membrane, composite material, or roof structure placed over a waste management facility or an agrichemical handling facility.

Practice Information

The roofs and covers practice is a component of an agricultural waste management system. Roofs and covers are installed to prevent the escape of gasses from waste facilities and to exclude precipitation from these facilities.

This practice can also utilize a roof to divert clean water from animal management areas and/or waste storage facilities.

Roofs and covers can improve air and water quality and facilitate the capture of biogases for energy production. The gasses captured include methane, ammonia, and others that cause odors. The methane can be captured and burned for fuel or flared to prevent it from entering the atmosphere as a greenhouse gas. The partial pressures created by placing a cover over a liquid storage or treatment facility allows more nitrogen to be retained in the waste that can be used for crop production.

Operation and maintenance requirements include periodic inspections with prompt repair of damaged components and monitoring to



ensure the continued success of the practice.

When covers are used for biogas collection, additional safety precautions will be required.

Common Associated Practices

Roofs and Covers (367) is commonly applied with conservation practices associated with waste storage and treatment facilities such as Anaerobic Digester (366), Waste Treatment Lagoon (359), and Waste Storage Facility (313), Composting Facility (317), or an Agrichemical Handling Facility (309), and On-Farm Secondary Containment Facility (319).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.