



Standards Oversight Council

Supporting Technical Standards for Urban and Rural Soil and Water Conservation

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Milking Center Waste Assessment Workshop Recommendations

Milking center waste treatment methods were discussed and evaluated at the Milking Center Waste Assessment Workshop that was held on December 17, 2002. It was agreed that there is a need for a technical standard (or standards) that directly addresses milking center waste treatment. This report summarizes the recommendations put forward by attendees of this workshop.

- While it may be possible to add materials to existing standards, the group proposed that a new standard be developed for milking center waste treatment. A single standard would have multiple benefits. A standard summarizing the relevant treatment methods for milkinghouse waste in one location could reduce the time spent searching numerous resources for required information. Properly addressing the use of treatment methods in a series and giving credit for pretreatment may be dealt with more effectively in one location. Additionally, implicating cost sharing programs may favor a single technical standard.
- Pretreatment of waste needs to be considered in the new standard. Currently pretreatment for milkinghouse waste does not get fully credited. Pretreatment measures including flocculators, tanks, other source controls and any water conservation measures should receive credit for reducing loading of the BMP.
- Practices to treat waste installed in a series must be credited appropriately. When sizing BMPs, flexibility is needed to base design decisions on the cumulative factors of practices installed in a series. For example, allowing smaller areas for practices in areas that receive reduced loading because of pretreatment.
- A design procedure should be developed to customize waste treatment strips for milkinghouse waste. A method to design buffers for overland flow treatment of milkinghouse waste should be included in a standard. Overland flow filter strips greater than 200 feet also need to be considered for milkinghouse waste.
- Clarification is needed how the Wastewater Treatment Strip, Standard 635 relates to milking centers, parlors, larger dairies and locations with discharges greater than 300 gallons a day.

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- Options for utilizing wetland plantings should be considered for wastewater treatment strips.
- Infiltration basins that include wetland plants and tighter soils requirements are another option to consider for milking center waste.
- The manifold method of distributing waste through a series of pipes over filter strips, as used in Pennsylvania, is an option that may be suitable in Wisconsin. This method is not referenced in Standard 635, but could potentially be located there or the in a new standard.
- It is believed milking center waste can be transferred to septic tanks meeting standard 313 Waste Storage Facility. Companion document 635-5 should be updated to reflect this possibility. Facultative ponds and irrigation systems for milking center waste could possibly be covered in standard 313.
- On a side note: a suggestion was made that manure spreaders/tanks be made a cost share item.