

FARM PRACTICE

STORAGE OF FARM SUPPLIES AND PRODUCTS

Description

Farmers build temporary and permanent storage facilities to protect equipment, materials, produce and end products from the environment; to prevent pollution of natural resources; to promote efficient handling of materials; to encourage quality production of products; to ensure personal and employee safety; and to provide security from vandalism and theft.

Farm storages are distinct from barns in that the latter house live animals or are used to grow plants, whereas storages are strictly utilized to store farm supplies and products.

Storage design is influenced by the intended purpose of the structure and on local climate. Storages can be built with a variety of construction materials.

Activities and Operations

Storage of Farm Equipment

Farm machinery such as tractors, combines, field implements, portable processing equipment and power units are often stored in some kind of structure to protect them from the elements and from vandalism.

Storage of Materials and Agricultural Products

Farmers are often required to store livestock feeds, grains, oilseeds, hay, silage, fruits, vegetables, milk and eggs. Because these products continue respiring in storage and are vulnerable to bacterial activity, they may spoil, germinate prematurely, or absorb and create odours. Since many of these materials and products are typically intended for human consumption or livestock feed, farmers must be able to control storage conditions such as temperature and humidity to ensure product quality is maintained.

See also Farm Practice: [Grain Handling](#)
[Product Processing](#)

Storage of Processed Products

Storage for on-farm preparation and processing operations should be permitted in situations where related commodity production occurs on the associated farm unit and if requirements of the Agricultural Land Commission and the Ministry of Environment are met.

Storages are designed to protect high-value inputs such as milled grain and seed. Others are designed to aid in the distribution and marketing of farm produce, especially foodstuffs that must be refrigerated to preserve their quality.

See also Farm Practice: [Product Processing](#)

Storage of Waste Products for Use or Treatment

Agricultural wastes such as manure, plant residues, nutrient-rich runoff and mortalities must often be stored, especially if they are to be recycled or reused at a later date. Key factors to consider when constructing waste storages are material handling efficiency, safety, and protection of the environment. The type and design of waste storage chosen will vary with regional climate, site-specific requirements, and local legislation.

Storage of Non-Agricultural Waste

Use of non-agricultural waste derived from processes or recycling of municipal solid waste, industrial waste, commercial waste, institutional waste, or demolition and land clearing waste may require the issuance of a permit or approval under the *Environmental Management Act*. If non-agricultural waste is to be applied to land within the Agricultural Land Reserve, approval from the Agricultural Land Commission may also be required.

See also Farm Practice: [Non-Agricultural Waste](#)

Related Farm Practices

Other farm practices that pertain to storages include, but are not limited to, the following.

Manure Storage and Use

Liquid manure may be agitated before it is spread onto farm fields.

See also Farm Practice: [Manure Storage and Use](#)

Structures

Many farm structures are used as storage facilities.

See also Farm Practice: [Structures](#)

Storage of Hazardous Material

Special precautions may be required for hazardous material storage.

See also Farm Practice: [Storage of Hazardous Material](#)

Ventilation

Storages may be naturally or mechanically ventilated to reduce the risk of product deterioration or spoilage.

See also Farm Practice: [Ventilation](#)

Legislation

Information on federal and provincial legislation can be found in Appendices B and C. Acts, regulations and bylaws that regulate or may affect storage of farm supplies and products practices include, but are not limited to, the following.

Federal Legislation

The *National Farm Building Code of Canada* provides guidelines for structural sufficiency, fire safety and health requirements for the protection of people in farm buildings. The Code is administered in conformance with local government regulations.

Provincial Legislation

The *Workers Compensation Act* addresses worker hazards specific to agriculture under part 28 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations*.

Local Government Legislation

Where applicable, local zoning bylaws may govern requirements for storage facilities.

Publications

Publications that provide further information on storage include, but are not limited to, the following. Refer to Appendix D for details. Various Ministry of Agriculture conceptual building plans may also be of assistance.

British Columbia Environmental Farm Plan Reference Guide

British Columbia Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Guide

On-Farm Food Safety