

10 Minute Supervisor Trainings



January 2023

Roof Covers and Runoff Structures

There are two different practices that can assist producers with reducing nutrient runoff from buildings: Roofs and Covers (367) and Roof Runoff Structures (558). Landowners can apply for State Cost Share under the Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) and Livestock—Pastureland practices. Landowners who apply under the Livestock—Pastureland best management practices can only apply for 558 Roof Runoff Structure.

Roofs and Covers (367) is a companion practice. Producers must also be applying for a Waste Storage Facility (313), Animal Waste Compost Facility (317), or Animal Mortality Facility. All of these practices currently require a comprehensive nutrient management plan prior to submitting a SCS application.

A comprehensive nutrient management plan is not the same as a KY Nutrient Management Plan. Refer to prior 10 Minute Trainings for more information about nutrient management planning.

Roofs and Covers (367) is a co-practice meant to protect facilities from runoff. They can be rigid, semirigid, or a flexible manufactured membrane. These covers are designed in accordance to the facility they are protecting.

For example, roofs and covers might be a co-practice to an animal composting facility in which case they would be a rigid roof. If the cover is for a wastewater storage facility, then the cover might be a porous cover to improve air quality, limit odors, and reduce the net effect of greenhouse gases.

Roofs and covers cannot be used as a co-practice for heavy use areas.

Roof Runoff Structures (558) can be added to existing structures or as a co-practice. Practices like Animal Mortality Facilities, can require a Roof Runoff Structure (558) in addition to Roofs and Covers (367).

Roof Runoff Structures (558) can be added to existing farm structures to collect, control, and convey precipitation runoff from a roof. These structures will be used to:

- Divert water away from a contaminated area or the foundation
- Collect and convey water to a stable outlet or infiltration area
- Collect and capture water for other uses such as irrigation

If using Roof Runoff Structures on an existing building, the building will need to be evaluated to ensure the success of the practice. If the roof cannot support a runoff structure, then it will likely not be eligible for cost share. Roof Runoff Structures can include:

- Gutters and downspouts
- Concrete curbs
- Fascia boards
- Trench Drains
- Water storage tanks
- Drip pads



Helpful Links:

Kentucky Ag Water Quality Authority BMPs: <https://eec.ky.gov/Natural-Resources/Conservation/Pages/Best-Management-Practices.aspx>

Guidance on rainwater harvesting can be found in the University of Kentucky Extension Publication AEN-135 [Rainwater Harvesting for Livestock Production Systems.](#)

[AEN-103: Stormwater BMPs for Confined Livestock Facilities \(uky.edu\)](#)

[Conservation Practice Standard Roof Runoff Structure \(Code 558\) \(usda.gov\)](#)

[Conservation Practice Standard Roofs and Covers \(Code 367\) \(usda.gov\)](#)