

*Mill Creek of the South Branch of the Potomac  
West Virginia Department of Agriculture  
With assistance of the West Virginia Conservation Agency  
Poultry Litter Load-Out Facility Demo  
Spring 2009*

Mill Creek of the South Branch of the Potomac is the focus of a multi-agency water quality improvement project. A watershed based plan has been developed to address the fecal coliform TMDL developed by US EPA. The watershed is also a "priority watershed" identified by the WV Chesapeake Bay Implementation Committee.

Poultry litter (a combination of both manure and bedding) is a valuable commodity within the Potomac Valley of West Virginia. Producers are able to market any residual nutrients that can not effectively be spread on their farms based upon their nutrient management plans. The Potomac Land Treatment Program (PL534) provided funding to poultry farmers for the construction of litter storage facilities and mortality composters as nutrient management BMPs over a ten year period beginning in 1996. Many producers have developed markets outside the watershed for their excess nutrients on their own and with the assistance of cost share programs. With the current price of commercial fertilizer, farmers are able to command an increased price for the nutrients being generated by poultry. The challenge has been that many producers have not had the ability to load the larger trucks that are coming into the area to haul litter out. In order to be economical, larger loads are sought to reduce fuel and trucking costs. The intent of this demonstration project is to provide a cost-effective, simplistic and easily reproducible load-out ramp that will allow for safe and efficient loading of tractor-trailer sized trailers with existing low-reach farm equipment (tractors, skid steer loaders). This will close the gap between storage and marketing.

The Bobby Kite farm is located on South Mill Creek off of Arnold Road. Mr. Kite produces broilers for Pilgrims Pride. He has two 42'X400' houses, producing 48,000 birds per flock with an average of 6.5 flocks per year. There is an existing litter shed and a composter and an up-to-date nutrient management plan on farm. Mr. Kite approached the WVCA in 2006 regarding acquiring assistance with specs on a ramp. At the time, no funding or designs existed for such a BMP. Through demonstration funds provided by the Chesapeake Bay Program, WVDA has worked with WVCA and the landowner to put together this proposal and cost-estimate for a load-out ramp. This structure will allow the landowner to expand his litter marketing and also provide a safer alternative to his existing loading situation.

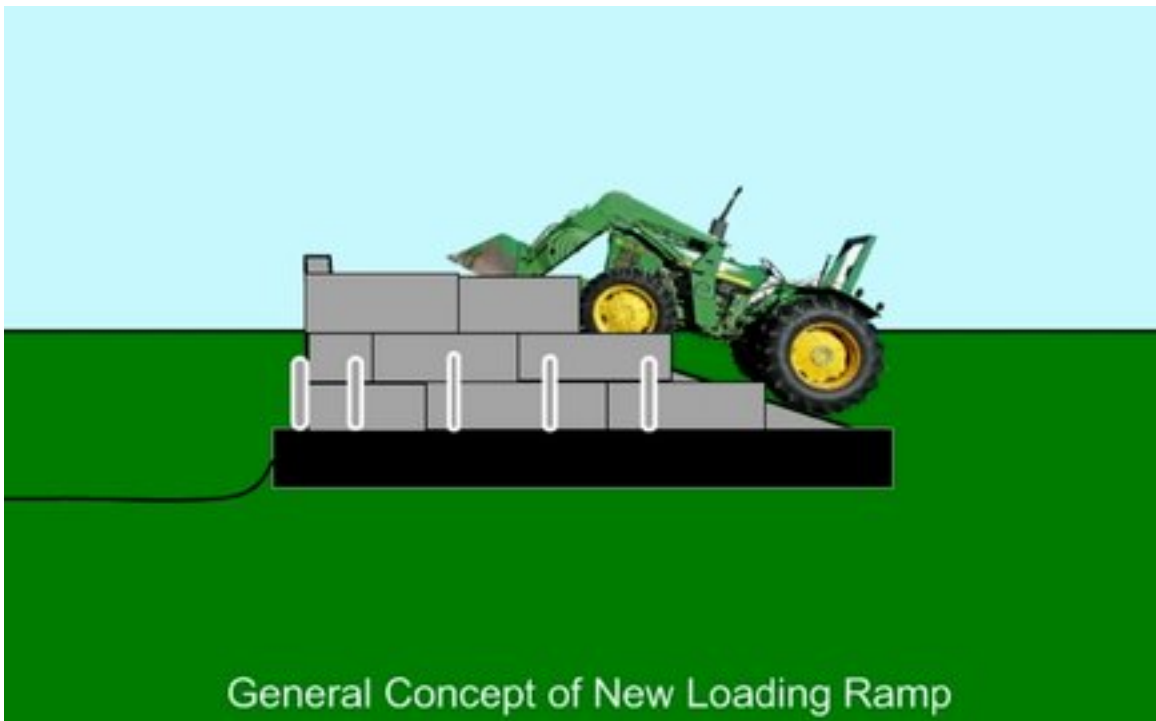
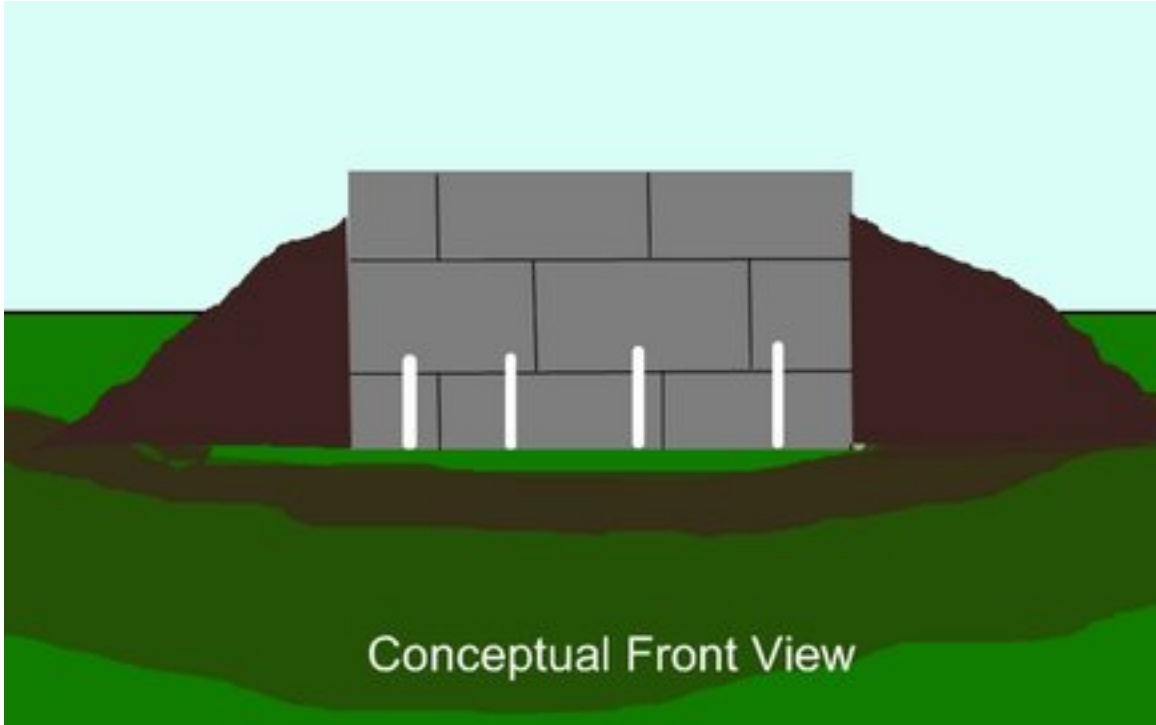


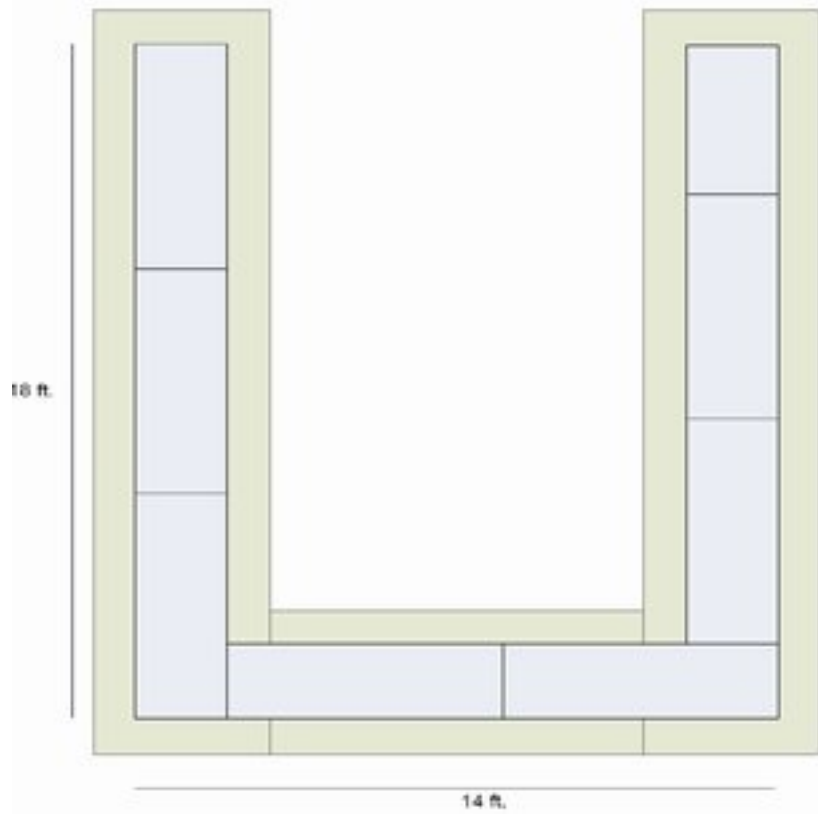
*Existing loading situation*

The following cost estimate and design has been prepared by Brock Markwell, Environmental Technician II. Construction will commence April 2009. The landowner will contribute to the overall cost of the project either monetarily or with in-kind services. The demo will be available to conservation partners to evaluate and promote similar structures throughout the watershed.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Price</b>
Excavation of site			\$100.00
Rebar for footers	Petersburg Block	226 total feet, 1/2' diameter	\$196.09
Concrete for footers	Petersburg Block	11 cubic yards	\$1,119.03
3" schedule 80 steel pipe	Bierkamp's Welding	48'	\$395.20
2'X2"6' Cribbing Stones (3600 #)	10 Petersburg Block & 20 Fairfax Materials due to availability	30 blocks	\$2,806.00
Shale		1 load	\$200.00
1.5" to 3" stone for truck pad	Greer Limestone	25 ton	\$412.50
Final Grade	Landowner (in-kind)		\$0.00
Seed & Mulch	Landowner (in-kind)		\$0.00
Labor & Equipment	Landowner (in-kind)		\$0.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$6,128.82</b>
* all costs include delivery charges			

Proposed Design of Litter Load-out Structure





KITE LOADING RAMP  
(RIGHT SIDE VIEW)

