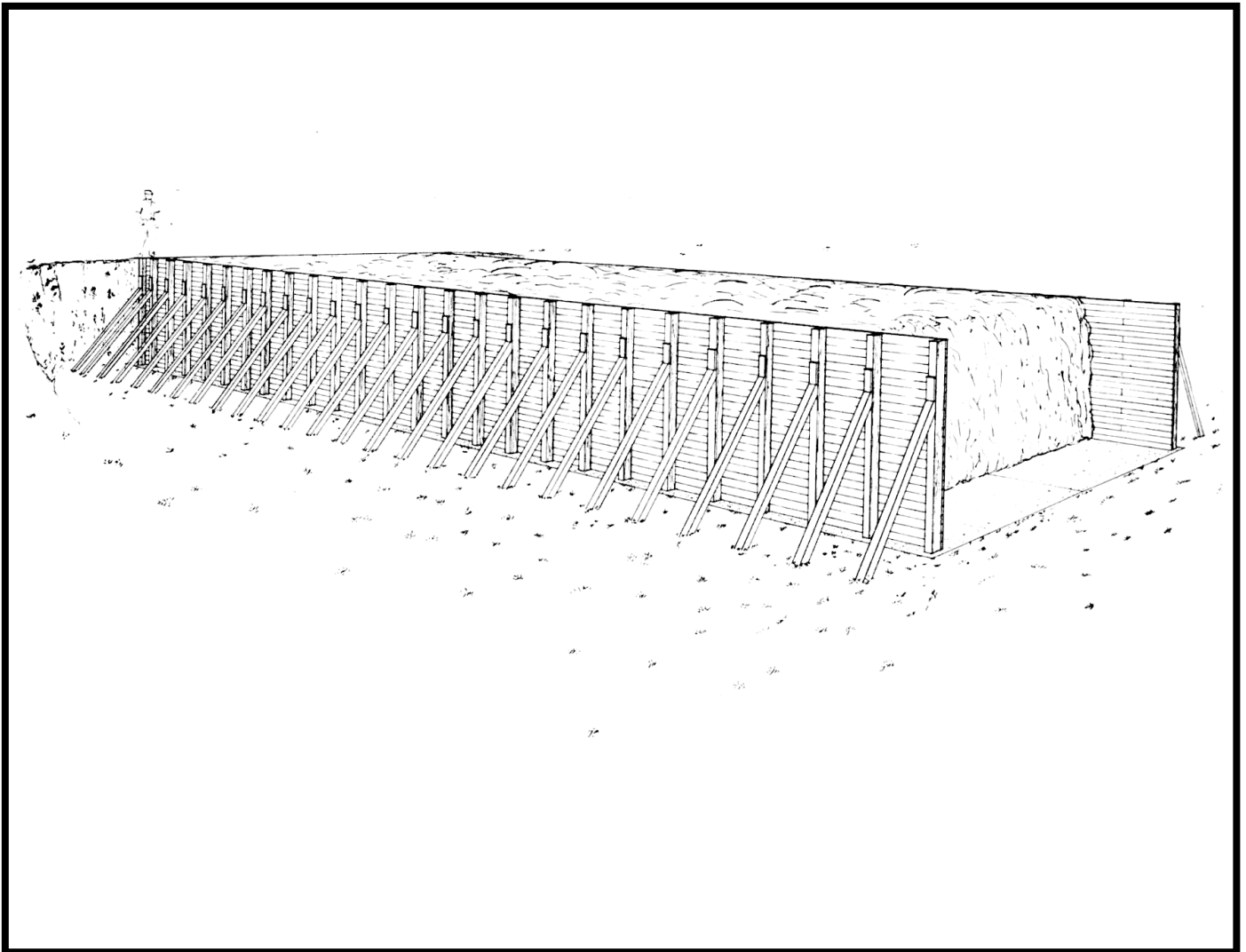




OPEN TOP TIMBER WALL BUNKER SILO 12 FT WALL (BRACED)



OPEN TOP BUNKER SILO TIMBER CONSTRUCTION

This plan set gives construction details for a timber bunker silo with 12 ft. high walls. The plan gives details for a thousand ton silo, however the width and length can be modified to suit individual storage requirements. The walls are covered with pressure treated tongue and groove planking, nailed to treated timber posts spaced 4 ft. apart. Timber braces prevent the walls from moving outward. This open top bunker is designed for use in areas with low precipitation where the weather will not interfere with the operation. In areas of high precipitation covered bunker silo plans 372-31 or 372-33 are recommended.

The silo can be filled by blowing the silage into the silo with a forage blower, unloading of a forage wagon, or by means of dump wagon. The silage must then be spread and packed with a tractor. Thorough packing squeezes air out, which helps reduce spoilage and increases storage capacity. Tractors used for packing silos should be equipped with roll bar protection.

Always cover the packed silage with a sealing membrane such as 6-mil. black polyethylene plastic. This film can be bought up to 40 ft. wide. Anchor the

plastic down securely with rope netting, a layer of old tires, or baled hay or straw to prevent billowing and tearing of the plastic by the wind. The baled straw also adds insulation to reduce freezing.

Bunker silos can be unloaded with a front-end loader. These horizontal silo unloaders leave the feeding face smooth and even for minimum drying and spoilage, however, a medium to high horsepower tractor is required to operate one. Silage is loaded into a forage wagon or mixer wagon for delivery to the feeding area.

Alternatively silage can be self-fed from this silo, however, the upper part of the feeding face must be trimmed down to prevent undermining. More spoilage usually results with this method of feeding as a result of the cattle pulling the feed off the face and dropping it in the manure. For winter feeding the open feeding face of a horizontal silo should face south for maximum exposure to the sun.

To minimize spoilage, a minimum of three inches of silage in cold weather and four inches in warm weather should be removed from the face daily.