

Continuing Conservation Initiative
Name of Practice: STREAM PROTECTION WITH WIDE WIDTH BUFFER
– MAINTENANCE PRACTICE
VACS Program Specifications for No.
CCI-WP-2W

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program's Continuous Conservation Initiative Stream Exclusion best management practice which are applicable to all contracts entered into with respect to that practice

A. Description and Purpose

This practice provides protection by fencing along **all live streams or live water in a field** to prevent stream bank erosion, direct deposition of animal waste and contamination of water from agricultural nonpoint sources of pollution.

The purpose of this practice is to offer an incentive payment to maintain exclusion fences and associated components (livestock crossings and hardened accesses) that together maintain land use change and/or improve management techniques to more effectively control soil erosion, sedimentation, and nutrient loss from surface runoff to improve water quality.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. This practice will maintain existing stream exclusion to prevent direct deposition of livestock waste and protect stream banks and other water features such as: wetlands, intermittent springs, seeps, ponds connected to streams, sensitive karst features, and gullies adjacent to springs from damage by domestic livestock. While no minimum fencing standards are required, a fence shall exclude livestock from the water feature at all times during the life span of this practice. The stream exclusion fence must be a minimum of 35 feet away from the stream, except as designed in areas immediately adjacent to livestock crossings and controlled hardened accesses.
2. The practice must not be in lifespan or under contract from any other conservation program. For practices originally installed through a program without a required maintenance lifespan, the practice may be considered eligible after it has been in place for the maximum current lifespan associated with the equivalent VACS practice. For practices originally installed through VACS in partnership with another program, the VACS lifespan shall be used to determine eligibility.
3. The maintenance and use of existing stable livestock crossings and controlled hardened accesses is required.

4. Incentive payments will be based upon the number of stream crossings, livestock accesses, and the existing linear feet of the excluded stream bank or water feature. The payment for the stream bank or water feature excluded will not include any area where livestock have access (i.e. hardened accesses).
5. Flash grazing (allowing livestock to graze the excluded riparian area) is not allowed as a management alternative during the lifespan of this practice.
6. The participant is responsible for inspecting and maintaining all fencing, stream crossings, and livestock accesses during the lifetime of the practice. In the event any of these components are damaged or destroyed, it is the responsibility of the participant to repair or replace with no additional CCI funding.
7. This practice is subject to spot checks from District staff annually for the life of the practice.
8. This practice is eligible for re-enrollment.
9. All practice components implemented must be maintained for a minimum of five years following the calendar year of installation. The lifespan begins on Jan. 1 of the calendar year following the calendar year of certification of completion. By accepting a cost-share payment for this practice, the participant agrees to maintain all practice components for the specified lifespan. This practice is subject to spot check by the District throughout the lifespan of the practice and failure to maintain the practice may result in reimbursement of cost-share.

C. Rate(s)

The VACS payment rate is a single payment of \$1.00 per linear foot of stream bank or the perimeter of the water feature protected and \$500 for each properly maintained livestock crossing or livestock access. Payment will be made after a field visit by District staff documents all components are functioning as intended and any needed maintenance has been addressed.

D. Technical Responsibility

Technical and administrative responsibility is assigned to qualified technical DCR and District staff in consultation, where appropriate and based on the controlling standard, with DCR, Virginia Certified Nutrient Management Planner(s), NRCS, DOF, and VCE. Individuals certifying technical need and technical practice installation shall have appropriate certifications as identified above and/or Engineering Job Approval Authority (EJAA) for the designed and installed component(s). All practices are subject to spot check procedures and any other quality control measures.

Revised April 2025