

Continuing Conservation Initiative  
Name of Practice: COMPOSTER FACILITIES-MAINTENANCE PRACTICE  
VACS Program Specifications for No. CCI-WP-4C

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

A. Description and Purpose

This practice prevents waste from mortality composting facilities from entering watercourses and environmental sensitive areas.

The purpose of this practice is to provide an incentive payment for the maintenance of existing mortality Composter Facilities.

This practice only applies to poultry and swine mortality composting facilities.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. This practice will maintain existing mortality Composter Facilities to prevent animal mortality runoff from entering watercourses and environmentally sensitive features.
2. This 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 of a functional Composter Facility is required and the existing and continued use of the facility must be for composting of mortality. The facility shall be effectively treating on site generated animal waste.
4. If the existing Composter Facility does not adequately treat on site animal mortality, either through undersized structures and/or management, the resource concern must be addressed prior to receiving payment for the CCI-WP-4C.
5. The Composter Facility components must not be subject to floodwaters and/or overland flow.
6. The Composter Facility must be a permanent facility with a roof, unless otherwise allowed by manufacturer's recommendations.

7. In order to be eligible for cost-share, producers must be fully implementing a current Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) on all agricultural production acreage under the producer's control receiving manure from the associated storage structure. The NMP must comply with all requirements set forth in the Nutrient Management Training and Certification Regulations, (4VAC50-85 et seq.) and the Virginia Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria (revised July 2014), must be prepared and certified by a Virginia certified nutrient management planner, and must be on file with the local District before any cost-share payment is made to the participant. Plans shall also contain any specific production management criteria designated in the BMP practice (4VAC50-85-130G).
8. The participant is responsible for inspecting and maintaining all Composter Facility components associated with the practice during its lifespan. In the event these components are damaged or destroyed, it is the responsibility of the participant to repair or replace them with no additional CCI funding.
9. This practice is eligible for re-enrollment.
10. 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 year of certification of completion. By accepting either a cost-share payment or a state tax credit 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 and/or tax credits.

C. Rate(s)

The VACS payment rate is a single payment of a base rate of \$250 per existing mortality composting bin. If other methods of mortality composting are used, such as drum composters or freezers, the payment shall be \$250 per bin as determined using the most recent applicable mortality composting bin sizing worksheet based on the current operation.

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.

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