

Name of Practice:
MANURE INJECTION
VACS Program Specification for
No. NM-6

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

A. Description and Purpose

This practice will encourage manure injection on pasture and cropland, which will reduce nutrient transport to waterways and other environmentally sensitive features.

Applications must be based upon the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP).

B. Policies and Specifications

1. Definition:

Manure injection is the placing of manure below the surface of the ground using direct manure injection equipment as determined by the Soil and Water Conservation District.

2. Eligibility:

- i. This practice is limited to applicants with a current Nutrient Management Plan on file with the District before manure injection application payment/tax-credit is made.
- ii. Application rates of manure shall be consistent with NMP recommendations.
- iii. Only cropland and pasture owned or rented by the applicant is eligible.
- iv. Applicants must use no-till planting methods that follow NRCS defined no-till management on all fields receiving manure injection application.
- v. Applicants must provide written verification (such as a work order or bill) to the District within 30 days of the injection application. Invoice/work order or bill must indicate:
 - a. Fields and acreages injected
 - b. Application rates
 - c. Type of injection equipment used
 - d. Person applying manure (contractor, etc.)
- vi. Producers must be fully implementing a current Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) on all agricultural production acreage contained within the field on which this practice will be implemented. 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 (4VACV50-85-130G).

3. The maximum acres eligible for the manure injection shall not exceed the acres specified in the Nutrient Management Plan.
4. Checks to ensure compliance with this practice may be conducted by the District or appropriate agency personnel and failure to comply may result in forfeiture of cost-share funds.
5. Cost-share is available for all acres with application rates in compliance with the NMP Spreading Schedule. Acres that receive application rates above NMP are not eligible for cost-share.
6. Participants may receive cost-share or tax credit for multiple injections on the same acres in the same program year (e.g. fall and spring), consistent with the Nutrient Management Plan and other requirements of this specification.

C. Rate(s)

1. As set forth by Virginia Code, the Commonwealth currently provides a tax credit for implementation of certain agricultural best management practices as discussed in the Tax Credit Guidelines of the VACS Manual.
2. A VACS payment rate of \$45 per acre is available. Participants may receive either a cost-share payment or a tax credit for implementation of this practice, but not both on the same acreage.
3. Eligible equipment purchased for Manure Injection may qualify for a state tax credit through the Virginia Equipment Tax Credit Program.

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 2023