

Name of Practice:  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION  
VACS Program Specifications for No. RMP-2

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

A. Description and Purpose

The implementation of Resource Management Plans (RMPs) is needed to improve water quality. Resource Management Plans can be developed for eligible farms throughout the state on crop, pasture, and/or hay acreage. Once an RMP has been approved, verified as being fully implemented by the review authority and the owner/ operator has received a Certificate of RMP Implementation, such owner/operator is eligible for payment for this practice.

The purpose of this practice is to offer financial assistance to farmers and certified Resource Management Plan Developers for the implementation of RMPs.

B. Policies and Specifications

An owner /operator cannot receive cost-share funding until such owner/operator has received a Certificate of RMP Implementation by meeting the requirements set out in 4VAC50-70-80 thus affirming that the RMP was determined to be adequate and that the RMP has been fully implemented.

Implementation shall be considered complete provided the owner or operator has installed the complete list of the BMPs that they agreed to implement or maintain to meet the minimum standards set out in 4VAC50-70-40.

1. Definitions (in addition to those set out in 4VAC50-70-10):

- i. **Cropland** – Land used for the production of grain, oilseeds, silage, or industrial crops.
- ii. **Hay** – Grass, legume, or other plants, such as clover or alfalfa, which is cut and dried for feed, bedding, or mulch.
- iii. **Pasture** – Land that supports the growth of forages for grazing of animals.
- iv. **Management unit** – One or more agricultural fields or United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency tracts under the control of the owner or operator and identified as the appropriate unit for RMP implementation. The management unit may consist of single fields, multiple fields and tracts, or an entire agricultural operation.
- v. **Review authority** – A Soil and Water Conservation District or the Department (DCR), where applicable, that is authorized to determine the adequacy of a Resource Management Plan and perform verification inspections and other authorized programmatic actions.

2. Cost-share funds received for the RMP-2 practice do not count against or otherwise affect an applicant's annual cost-share cap for other cost-shared practices.
3. Eligibility:
  - i. Receipt of RMP-2 cost-share is not contingent upon prior receipt of RMP-1 practice cost-share that may be provided to assist with RMP development.
  - ii. A cost-share payment cannot be made until the onsite verification inspection is conducted by the review authority and the review authority affirms such adequacy and implementation to DCR.
  - iii. An applicant may apply for a new RMP-2 on land management units which have previously received cost-share for RMP-2 when a new RMP has been implemented and a new Certificate of RMP Implementation issued.
  - iv. An applicant may apply for multiple RMP-2 practices either within the same cost-share Program Year or another cost-share Program Year, but the RMP-2 applications must not include the same land management units.
4. Ineligible:
  - i. No cost-share payment can be made unless all BMPs in an approved RMP necessary to meet minimum standards are verified as being fully implemented by the review authority and DCR has issued a Certificate of RMP Implementation.

C. Rate(s)

1. The VACS payment rate is \$5.00 per acre for all eligible acres within a management unit.

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.

Technical responsibility for plan conformance with regulations and assurance that the plan reflects in-field conditions is assigned to the Virginia Certified Resource Management Plan Developer who has prepared the RMP.

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