

Name of Practice: SHORELINE STABILIZATION  
VACS Program Specification for No. SE-2

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

A. Description and Purpose

Structures and/or vegetative measures will be designed and implemented to stabilize shoreline areas of tidally-influenced streams and rivers, estuaries, bays, and the ocean.

The purpose of this practice is to improve water quality by stabilizing shoreline areas that are being eroded because of waves, boat wake, or overland flow.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. Cost-share and tax credit are authorized:
  - i. For land shaping to achieve a stable slope.
  - ii. For the construction of riprap revetments, sills (riprap or oyster shell bags), groins, break-waters, and gabion systems.
  - iii. For sand fill needed to stabilize sills and breakwaters and provide suitable substrate for the establishment of vegetation.
  - iv. For the establishment of vegetation. New vegetation must maintain a cover of 85% or more. Spot treat invasive species to maintain density to less than 5% cover.
  - v. For engineering and design assistance.
  - vi. For shorelines bordering only agricultural lands. Other lands such as recreational, urban and built-up or residential lots are not eligible.
  - vii. For tidally-influenced waters only.
  
2. Cost-share and tax credit are not authorized:
  - i. For living shorelines on sites with a fetch greater than 5 miles.
  - ii. For beach replenishment or fill that is not required to stabilize structural measures or for establishment of vegetation.
  
3. All appropriate local, state, and federal permits must be obtained before cost-share or tax credit is authorized.

This is a one-time incentive payment and not eligible for reapplication on the same site.
  
4. Livestock must be excluded from the project area.
  
5. This practice is subject to the requirements of applicable NRCS Standards including

342 Critical Area Planting, 580 Streambank and Shoreline Protection, 382 Fence, and 612 Tree/Shrub Establishment.

6. All practice components implemented must be maintained for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of certification of completion. The lifespan begins on Jan. 1 of the calendar year following the year of implementation. 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)

1. The VACS payment will not exceed 75% of the approved estimated cost or eligible actual cost, whichever is less, of all necessary components needed to implement shoreline stabilization.
2. 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.
3. If a participant receives cost-share, only the participant's eligible out-of-pocket share of the project cost is used to determine the tax credit.

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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