

Name of Practice: SEDIMENT RETENTION, EROSION, OR WATER CONTROL
STRUCTURES
VACS Program Specifications for No. WP-1

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program's Sediment Retention, Erosion, or Water Control Structures best management practice that are applicable to all contracts entered into with respect to that practice

A. Description and Purpose

This practice will promote structures that will collect and store debris or control the grade of drainage ways.

The purpose of this practice is to improve water quality by reducing the movement of sediment and materials from agricultural land to receiving streams.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. Cost-share and tax credit are authorized:
 - i. For sediment detention or retention structures, such as erosion control dams (excluding water storage dams), desilting reservoirs, sediment basin, debris basins, or similar structures.
 - ii. For channel linings, chutes, drop spillways, and pipe drops that better manage excess water.
 - iii. For fencing or otherwise protecting a vegetative cover (including mulching needed to protect the structure) and for leveling and filling to permit the installation of the structure.
 - iv. For installing sediment retention structures on public roadsides only where these structures are essential to solve a farm-based pollution or conservation problem.
 - v. Only if the measures will contribute significantly to maintaining or improving soil or water quality.
2. Cost-share or tax credit is not authorized for irrigation structures that are part of a distribution system for irrigation water.
3. Consideration should be given to the needs of wildlife when establishing the protective measures.
4. Soil loss rates must be computed for all applications for use in establishing priority considerations.

5. Direct discharge of runoff from crop fields, without filtering, is not allowed under this specification. A 10 foot minimum grass filter must be provided at the pipe inlet in the form of an apron adjacent to the pipe or a permanently vegetated diversion or waterway.
6. This practice is subject to the specifications of NRCS Standards 350 Sediment Basin, 362 Diversion, 382 Fence, 410 Grade Stabilization Structure, 468 Lined Waterway or Outlet, 606-Subsurface Drain, 620-Underground Outlet, and 638 Water and Sediment Control Basin. When a subsurface drain is used in conjunction with this practice, a wetlands determination shall be performed prior to installation.
7. All practice components implemented must be maintained for a minimum of 10 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)

1. A VACS payment rate based on 90% of the approved estimated cost or eligible actual cost, whichever is less, has been established.
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 of the VACS Manual.
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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