

Name of Practice: ANIMAL MORTALITY INCINERATOR FACILITIES
VACS Program Specifications for No. WP-4F

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

A. Description and Purpose

This practice provides a planned mortality incineration system that will dispose of poultry and livestock carcasses resulting from normal mortality.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. Cost-share and tax credit programs are available to participants to implement an incineration facility to protect and improve water quality by encouraging better mortality management by incinerating poultry and livestock carcasses resulting from normal mortality and spreading or properly disposing of the residual material at the proper time, rate, and location.
2. This practice is designed to provide facilities for incinerating poultry and livestock carcasses from normal mortality. Incinerators must be sized to accommodate normally expected mortality from the existing operation, and may not consider future expansion of the operation.
3. Authorized participants receive cost-share funds to construct an incineration facility to meet their needs and management capabilities. All applicants must have:
 - i. A written operation and management plan for each incineration facility.
 - ii. A Nutrient Management Plan developed in accordance with requirements for Nutrient Management Plan content and procedures as stipulated in the Virginia Nutrient Management Training and Certification Regulations for animal wastes, which are land applied. The Nutrient Management Plan shall be implemented and maintained for the life of the practice.
 - iii. A method of disposal of the residual from the incineration facility that does not increase non-point source contamination of state waters if a nutrient management plan is not required for that residual.

4. Expenses are authorized for incinerators sized to accommodate normal expected mortality based upon the type and number of animals currently managed at the operation including:
 - i. For leveling and filling to permit the installation of an effective system.
 - ii. For concrete construction necessary for the structure's foundation and a minimal work area needed to operate the incinerator.
 - iii. For a fuel tank and/or fuel lines sized to supply the incinerator.
 - iv. For concrete construction necessary for the structure's foundation and a minimal work area needed for equipment to load and unload the residuals from incineration.
 5. Expenses are not authorized:
 - i. For incinerator facilities that do not meet local, state or federal regulations.
 - ii. For planned facilities. An existing water quality problem must be apparent to be eligible for funds.
 - iii. For replacing or upgrading an existing incinerator. Cost-sharing is not authorized for planned enlargement of animal operations. However, cost-share funds are available for use to solve existing water quality problems.
 6. Compliance with all appropriate local and state laws, regulations and zoning ordinances is required before cost-share payments are issued. This includes, but is not limited to, acquisition of permits and completion of inspections as required.
 7. In order to be eligible for cost-share or tax credit, producers must be fully implementing a current Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) on all agricultural production acreage contained within the field upon 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).
 8. This practice is subject to the NRCS Standards 316 Animal Mortality Facility, 317 Composting Facility, 362 Diversion, 367 Roofs and Covers, 558 Roof Runoff Structure, 561 Heavy Use Area, 620 Underground Outlet, 633 Waste Utilization and 634 Waste Transfer.
- C. 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.

D. Rate(s)

1. The VACS payment will not exceed 75% of the approved estimated cost or eligible actual cost, whichever is less, of the animal mortality incinerator facility only.
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 the participant receives cost-share payments, only the percent of the total cost of the project that the participant contributed is used to determine the tax credit.

E. 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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