

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 Facilities best management practice 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.

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.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. 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 operation.
2. 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.
3. Expenses are authorized for incinerators sized to accommodate normal expected mortality based upon the type and number of animals managed at the operation including:
 - i. For leveling and filling to permit the installation of an effective system.
 - ii. For a fuel tank and/or fuel lines appropriately sized to supply the incinerator.
 - iii. 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.
 - iv. For operations that are planned or under construction, only if the applicant

provides a signed certification (Cost-Share Contract Appendix A) documenting the type, size, and number of animals to be placed on site within six months of completion of the incinerator. The applicant must also provide any other information required to size and plan the facility.

4. Expenses are not authorized for incinerator facilities that do not meet local, state or federal regulations.
 5. For incinerator facilities installed as part of an operation that is planned or under construction, cost-share and tax credit will not be issued until the type, size, and number of animals documented on the signed certification (Cost-Share Contract Appendix A) have been placed on site and all other aspects of the operation used to plan the facility are being implemented as outlined during the planning process. The placement of animals on site must occur within six months after the facility is technically certified.
 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 under the producer's control receiving manure from the associated storage structure. 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, 362 Diversion, 367 Roofs and Covers, 558 Roof Runoff Structure, 561 Heavy Use Area, 620 Underground Outlet, 633 Waste Recycling and 634 Waste Transfer.
- C. All practice components implemented must be maintained for a minimum of 15 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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