

Name of Practice: SEASONAL FEEDING FACILITY WITH ATTACHED MANURE
STORAGE

VACS Program Specifications for No. WP-4SF

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program's Seasonal Feeding Facility with Attached Manure Storage 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 system designed to prevent those areas exposed to heavy livestock traffic from experiencing excessive manure and soil losses due to the destruction of ground cover and to manage liquid and/or solid waste from areas where livestock are concentrated. The intent of this practice is to improve water quality by preventing manure and sediment runoff from entering watercourses and sensitive karst features and capturing a portion of the manure as a resource for other uses by storing and spreading waste at the proper time, rate, and location.

This covered concrete facility includes a feeding area, as well as a manure storage area, that allows for the capture and storage of manure during inclement weather. An approved rotational grazing plan and stream exclusion are required.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. Eligibility: Cost-share and tax credit are limited to solving the pollution problems where the livestock operation can show they have either:
 - i. Access to land for application and where a full farm plan approach to solving the water quality problem is being carried out.
 - ii. A current Nutrient Management Plan that has been certified by a Virginia certified Nutrient Management Planner and, if needed, a transfer plan prepared by a certified Nutrient Management Planner for any livestock.
2. Practice Development
 - i. Before cost-share or tax credit can be approved, all other means of reducing the environmental impacts of animal waste from the existing operation must be considered. Lack of space for relocation, economic inefficiency or other factors may be considered. A "Risk Assessment for Water Quality Impairment from Heavy Use Areas/Animal Concentrated Areas" must be completed and a minimum score of 120 is required in order to be eligible.
 - ii. The applicant is required to sign a Dry Manure Storage Structure Agreement DCR199-86 (04/19) or similar District agreement which addresses the minimum criteria prior to receiving any funds.
 - iii. Determination of the storage capacity of animal waste facilities shall be reviewed and approved by the DCR Agricultural BMP Engineer.

- iv. Unrolling hay in pastures is permitted outside the feeding facility for the lifespan of the practice. Concentrated feeding of any sort is not permitted outside the feeding facility (including but not limited to: hay rings, feed carts, troughs, bunks, etc.)
 - v. Feeding area shall be sized on the current herd size and planned feeding method, not to exceed 50 sq. ft. per animal unit.
- 3. Cost-share and tax credit is authorized for:
 - i. Animal waste generated from any qualifying group of animals on the farm where the facility is to be located.
 - ii. Feeding area.
 - iii. A dry stack manure storage area sized for up to six (6) months of manure production.
 - iv. Roofs over the feeding area and manure storage area and roof runoff system.
 - v. Individual components of animal waste systems, only if the DCR Agricultural BMP Engineer determines that the component stands alone as a measure that will significantly improve water quality.
 - vi. Fencing and walkways.
- 4. Cost-share and tax credit is not authorized for:
 - i. Storage of manure generated outside of this facility.
 - ii. Troughs within the structure.
 - iii. Animal waste facilities that do not meet local or state regulations.
- 5. The sizing calculations of the practice shall be reviewed and approved by the DCR Ag BMP Engineer (except for practices previously sized and engineered by NRCS) and shall be coordinated with the Nutrient Management Plan so that adequate storage capacity is installed.
- 6. All appropriate local and state permits must be obtained before beginning construction.
- 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 NRCS Standards 313 Waste Storage Facility, 342 Critical Area Planting, 362 Diversion, 367 Roofs and Covers, 382 Fence, 412 Grassed Waterway, 558 Roof Runoff Structure, 561 Heavy Use Protection, 575 Trails and Walkways, 620 Underground Outlet, 633 Waste Recycling and 634 Waste Transfer.
9. 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.

C. Rates

1. The VACS payment will not exceed 75% of the approved estimated cost or eligible actual cost, whichever is less.
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.

Revised April 2024