

Name of Practice: CREP GRASS FILTER STRIP
VACS Program Specification for No. CP-21

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Grass Filter Strip which are applicable to all contracts entered into with respect to that practice.

A. Description and Purpose

This practice provides the state rental portion of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) for grass filter strip installation on cropland along water features. Its purpose is to improve water quality and wildlife habitat by establishing a grass filter strip along water features on cropland.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. This is the state rental payment for the installation of a warm season grass filter strip on cropland in conjunction with a CREP contract with FSA.
2. Applicable in cropland only.
3. FSA determines eligibility.
4. A CRLF-1 reporting marker will be used to report the linear feet of stream bank protected when a CREP grass buffer (CRWQ-1) is installed in conjunction with the CREP contract. This reporting marker will be used in conjunction with the CP-21 rental practice and the CRWQ-1 CREP Grass Filter strip practice to report the linear feet of stream bank protected through the planting of a native warm season grass buffer planted on cropland adjacent to a waterway.
5. This practice is subject to the standards of the CP-21 contained in the FSA 2-CRP Handbook and the CREP amendment to the CRP Handbook.
6. See applicable state BMP specifications for CRWQ-1 Grass Filter strip (warm season grasses only) for technical guidance.
7. All practice components implemented must be maintained for the lifespan of the CREP contract. 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 state rental rate is \$5 per acre per full year (as identified in field 9 of the CRP-1), for the life of the contract paid in a lump sum amount when all BMPs in conjunction with a CREP contract have been installed.

D. Administrative 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 2023