

Name of Practice: CREP WETLAND RESTORATION
VACS Program Specifications for No. CRWQ-6B

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

A. Description and Purpose

This practice will restore land to the hydraulic condition that existed prior to 1985 and the installation of drainage systems that converted wetlands to cropland.

The purpose of this practice is to improve water quality by returning environmentally sensitive land back to its original wetland condition before it was converted to cropland.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. Authorized activities:
 - i. For equipment work needed to completely fill drainage ditches to the original contour.
 - ii. For excavation of sections of existing tile drainage.
 - iii. For constructing ditch plugs.
 - iv. For pipe risers or other structures to control the water level.
2. No activity is authorized for any restoration, enhancement or preservation of a wetland that is part of or that becomes part of a wetland mitigation bank or is required by any state or federal, permit or local ordinance during the life of the practice.
3. This practice is subject to NRCS Standards 342 Critical Area Stabilization, 356 Dike, 587 Structure for Water Control, 657 Wetland Restoration and 644 Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management.
4. 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. For BMPs identified on farm conservation plans, the CREP cost-share rate is fifty percent (50%) of FSA approved eligible cost.

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 an applicant receives cost-share, only the percent of the total cost of the project that the applicant contributed 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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