

Name of Practice: FARM ROAD, ANIMAL TRAVEL LANE, HEAVY-USE AREA
STABILIZATION
VACS Program Specification for No. SL-11B

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program's Farm Road, Animal Travel Lane, Heavy-Use Area Stabilization best management practice which are applicable to all contracts entered into with respect to that practice.

A. Description and Purpose

This practice will promote structural and/or management practices that will protect surface water and groundwater recharge areas from pollution from travel ways of farm equipment and livestock or from a winter feeding area.

The purpose of this practice is to protect or maintain water quality by stabilizing travel ways used by farm equipment and/or livestock or from winter feeding area.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. Tax Credit is authorized:
 - i. For land shaping to control water flow coming onto or off of the travel ways.
 - ii. For material to top travel ways that will prevent erosion.
 - iii. For stabilizing travel way banks and other bare areas with vegetation.
 - iv. For stream crossings needed to protect stream banks and beds from erosion due to livestock and/or equipment traffic.
 - v. For culverts and/or bridges to convey water under travel ways.
 - vi. For riprap to stabilize stream banks after the installation of a stream crossing.
 - vii. For the installation of water bars to safely channel flows away from the travel bed.
 - viii. For the retrofit of a concrete slab across the front of existing poultry houses and litter stacking sheds to contain spilled and tracked litter and effect better cleanup (not to finance slabs on new facilities, but to address existing water quality problems).
 - ix. For installation of a winter feeding pad when all other means of reducing the environmental impact have been explored and rejected due to economic inefficacy or lack of space for relocation. Livestock must not have access to surface water or groundwater recharge areas in the field where the pad is located. Fencing and watering facilities necessitated by the protection of the surface and ground water recharge areas may be installed with other VACS BMPs and tax credit practices.
 - a. The tax credit is limited to one feeding pad per tract to be sized according to the existing herd.
 - b. A plan for managing the anticipated amount of manure must be developed.

2. Soil loss rates must be computed for all applications for use in establishing priority considerations.
3. This practice is subject to NRCS Standards 342 Critical Area Planting, 382 Fence (only when associated with animal travel lanes), 560 Access Road, 561 Heavy Use Area Protection and 575 Trails and Walkways.
4. 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 implementation. By accepting 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. 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.
2. If a participant receives cost-share, only the participant share of the project 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 2023