

Name of Practice: STREAM CROSSINGS & HARDENED ACCESS
VACS Program Specifications for No. WP-2B

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program's Stream Crossings and Hardened Access best management practice which are applicable to all contracts entered into with respect to that practice.

A. Description and Purpose

This practice establishes a stabilized area to provide access to and/or across a stream for livestock and/or farm machinery, to improve water quality by controlling bank and streambed erosion and reducing sediment by providing a controlled crossing and/or access to streams.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. Tax Credit is authorized:
 - i. For riprap to stabilize the stream bank and bed.
 - ii. For pipe to pass water under crossing.
 - iii. For concrete and forming work to construct a concrete crossing.
 - iv. For excavation work to slope the stream bank to a less erosive slope.
2. All local, state and federal permits must be obtained before construction may begin.
3. Soil loss rates must be computed for all applications.
4. This practice is subject to NRCS Standards 342 Critical Area Stabilization, 560 Access Road, 575 Trails and Walkways, 578 Stream Crossing, and 584 Channel Stabilization.
5. All practice components implemented must be maintained for a minimum of five 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 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's 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