

Name of Practice: CAPPING/PLUGGING OF ABANDONED WELLS  
VACS Program Specification for No. WQ-9

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program's Capping/Plugging of Abandoned Wells best management practice which are applicable to all contracts entered into with respect to that practice.

A. Description and Purpose

This practice will cap or plug wells with proper materials to prevent surface water or debris from entering abandoned wells.

The purpose of this practice is to stop or prevent the pollution of the groundwater by cleaning and capping, or plugging abandoned wells.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. Tax credit is authorized:
  - i. For the removal of debris, casing and/or old pumping equipment from the well that may prevent it from being sealed properly.
  - ii. For proper treatment of the well to cleanse it before sealing.
  - iii. For proper sealing material and other fill material to seal the well.
  - iv. For earth shaping to direct surface water around the capped or plugged well.
2. The structure shall be maintained for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. By accepting credit, the recipient agrees to maintain the practice for the specified lifespan. This practice is subject to verification by the District throughout the practice life and failure to comply may result in forfeiture of credit.
3. This practice is subject to NRCS Standards 351 Well Decommissioning, 382 Fence, and 472 Access Control.

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 from any source, 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.

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