

Name of Practice: VOLUNTARY STREAM EXCLUSION  
VACS Program Specifications for No. VSE-5

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program's Voluntary Stream Exclusion with or without Grazing Land Management best management practice, which are applicable to all contracts entered into with respect to that practice.

A. Description and Purpose

This practice will record voluntary livestock exclusion fences that will exclude livestock from perennial streams and/or intermittent waterways, areas of streambank fenced out, and/or areas where grazing is improved. It may enhance or protect vegetative cover to reduce runoff of nutrients and some sediment from existing pastureland and therefore reduces non-point source pollution associated with grazing livestock.

The purpose of this practice is to document stream exclusion and setback/buffer practices undertaken by producers without any financial assistance. The practice provides alternative fencing that will improve water quality by eliminating direct access to surface waters. However, the fence does not need to meet any specifications except that it is a permanent functioning livestock exclusion system.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. This practice is limited to pastureland that borders a perennial or intermittent stream or Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Resource Protection Area, as defined by local ordinance. Exception to this may be granted in cases of severe environmental degradation occurring in and around features such as seeps, ponds, wetlands, or sinkholes, etc.
2. Grazing (including flash grazing) is not allowed in the protected riparian area during the lifespan of this practice.
3. Soil loss rates must be computed for all applications.
4. The practice must not be in lifespan from any other conservation program.
5. All practice components implemented should 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. This practice is subject to spot check by the District throughout the lifespan of the practice.

C. 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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