

Name of Practice: VOLUNTARY LONG TERM VEGETATIVE COVER ON CROPLAND
VACS Program Specifications for No. VSL-1

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program's Voluntary Long Term Vegetative Cover on Cropland best management practice, which are applicable to all contracts entered into with respect to that practice.

A. Description and Purpose

Grass and/or legume vegetation will be established on cropland with existing cover of less than 60%, converting it to pasture or hay land to reduce soil erosion and enhance water quality.

This practice is intended to document and promote conversion of cropland to fields with a healthy, well-maintained sod.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. Producers must be fully implementing a current Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) on all agricultural production acreage contained within the field on which this practice will be implemented. The NMP must comply with all requirements set forth in the Nutrient Management Training and Certification Regulations (4VAC50-85 et seq.) and the Virginia Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria (revised July 2014); must be prepared and certified by a Virginia certified Nutrient Management Planner; and must be on file with the local District. Plans shall also contain any specific production management criteria designated in the BMP practice (4VACV50-85-130G).
2. Soil loss rates must be computed for all applications.
3. This practice is not intended to be used to reseed or improve hayland or pastureland.
4. Pastures and haylands that are planted under this practice will be grazed or harvested and maintained in accordance with NRCS Standard 512 for the lifespan. This practice is subject to verifications by the District throughout the life of the practice.
5. Fertility - Lime and fertilizer can be applied for maintenance purposes but must be done in accordance with current soil test recommendations (at Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension maintenance rates for the appropriate sod species). If biosolids or manure is used, the material must be properly sampled and tested for nutrient

content and given credit in fertilizer recommendations. Test results must be part of practice documentation.

6. This practice is subject to NRCS Standard 512 Pasture and Hay Planting.
7. All practice components implemented should be maintained for a minimum of five years following the calendar year of certification of completion. 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.
8. The practice must not be in lifespan from any other conservation program.

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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