

Name of Practice: VOLUNTARY SEDIMENT RETENTION, EROSION, OR
WATER CONTROL STRUCTURES
VACS Program Specifications for No. VWP-1

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program's Voluntary Sediment Retention, Erosion, or Water Control Structures best management practice, which are applicable to all contracts entered into with respect to that practice.

A. Description and Purpose

This practice will promote structures that will collect and store debris or control the grade of drainage ways.

The purpose of this practice is to improve water quality by reducing the movement of sediment and materials from agricultural land to receiving streams.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. This practice may include:
 - i. Sediment detention or retention structures, such as erosion control dams (excluding water storage dams), desilting reservoirs, sediment basin, debris basins, or similar structures.
 - ii. Channel linings, chutes, drop spillways, and pipe drops that better manage excess water.
 - iii. Fencing or otherwise protecting a vegetative cover (including mulching needed to protect the structure) and for leveling and filling to permit the installation of the structure.
 - iv. Sediment retention structures on public roadsides only where these structures are essential to solve a farm-based pollution or conservation problem.
2. Consideration should be given to the needs of wildlife when establishing the protective measures.
3. Soil loss rates must be computed for all applications.
4. The practice must not be in lifespan from any other conservation program.
5. Direct discharge of runoff from crop fields, without filtering, is not allowed under this specification. A 10 feet minimum grass filter must be provided at the pipe inlet in the form of an apron adjacent to the pipe or a permanently vegetated diversion or waterway.

6. This practice is subject to the specifications of NRCS Standards 350 Sediment Basin, 362 Diversion, 382 Fence, 410 Grade Stabilization Structure, 468 Lined Waterway or Outlet, 606 Subsurface Drain, 620 Underground Outlet, and 638 Water and Sediment Control Basin. When a subsurface drain is used in conjunction with this practice, a wetlands determination shall be performed prior to installation.
7. 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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