

Name of Practice: VOLUNTARY STREAMBANK STABILIZATION
VACS Program Specifications for No. VWP-2A

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

A. Description and Purpose

This practice promotes protection methods along streams that reduce erosion, sedimentation, and the pollution of water from agricultural non-point sources.

The purpose of this practice is to change land use, provide vegetative stabilization or improve management techniques to more effectively control soil erosion, sedimentation, and nutrient loss from surface runoff to improve water quality.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. This practice may contain:
 - i. Vegetative work. This includes temporary seedings as well as permanent herbaceous, woody, or shrub species.
 - ii. Riprap when it is used to secure the slope's toe only.
 - iii. Structural measures such as gabions, walls or riprap on side slopes, if needed in conjunction with vegetative work.
 - iv. Grading and shaping of the bank to achieve proper slope and seeding conditions.
 - v. Livestock crossings that retard sedimentation and pollution while providing access to water for livestock. When no other water source is feasible or exists, a controlled hardened access may be used to provide livestock access to water. The installation of livestock crossings and controlled hardened accesses are limited to small streams. Where required, permits must be obtained by the applicant from authorities before the practice will be approved.
 - vi. Stream banks bordering only agricultural and forestal lands. Other lands such as recreational, urban, and built-up or residential lots are not eligible.
2. Only freshwater streams are eligible. All appropriate local, state and federal permits must be obtained before cost-share can be authorized.
3. Stream bank stabilization performed under the practice shall be protected from damage by livestock and equipment. For fencing, the VSE-5 Voluntary Stream Exclusion practice must be used.

4. Consideration must be given to wildlife and environmental issues when designing the practice.
5. Soil loss rates must be computed for all applications.
6. The practice must not be in lifespan from any other conservation program.
7. This practice is subject to NRCS Standards: 342 Critical Area Planting, 382 Fence, 472 Use Exclusion, 575 Trails and Walkways, 578 Stream Crossing, 580 Stream Bank and Shoreline Protection, and 612 Tree /Shrub Establishment.
8. 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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