

Name of Practice: VOLUNTARY SOD WATERWAY
VACS Program Specifications for No. VWP-3

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

A. Description and Purpose

This practice creates a natural or constructed waterway, shaped or graded and established in suitable vegetation, to safely convey water across areas of concentrated flow.

Its purpose is to improve water quality by reducing the movement of sediment and nutrients from agricultural non-point sources.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. This practice includes site preparation, grading, shaping, filling, and establishing permanent vegetative cover.
2. Permanent fencing, subsurface drains, or stone lined centers are authorized if necessary for proper functioning of waterways.
3. The cover may consist of sod-forming grasses, legumes, mixtures of grasses and legumes, or other types of vegetative cover that will provide the needed protection from erosion.
4. Livestock must be excluded after planting for a minimum of 12 months.
5. Close-sown small grains, annuals, or mulching may be used for temporary protection if followed by eligible permanent vegetative cover established by seeding or natural re-vegetation.
6. Soil loss rates must be computed for all applications.
7. The practice must not be in lifespan from any other conservation program.
8. This practice is subject to NRCS Standard 342 Critical Area Planting, 382 Fence, 412 Grassed Waterways, 484 Mulching, 606 Subsurface Drain, 620 Underground Outlet. When a subsurface drain is used in conjunction with the practice, a wetlands determination shall be performed prior to installation.
9. 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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