

Name of Practice: VOLUNTARY BUFFER STRIPCROPPING
VACS Program Specifications for No. VSL-3B

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

A. Description and Purpose

Buffer stripcropping includes a series of narrow permanent protective strips of sod alternating with wider strips of row or close growing crops implemented to reduce erosion and surface runoff and improve surface water quality.

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 subject to NRCS Standard 332 Contour Buffer Strips.
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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