

Name of Practice: STREAMBANK STABILIZATION

VACS Program Specifications for No. WP-2A

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program's 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 offer an incentive that will 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. Cost-share and tax credits are authorized for:
 - i. Vegetative work. This includes temporary seedings as well as permanent herbaceous, woody, or shrub species. Cost-share and tax credits are authorized for riprap when it is used to secure the slope's toe only. Cost-share and tax credits are not authorized for structural measures such as gabions, walls or riprap on side slopes. If needed in conjunction with vegetative work, it must be at the applicant's expense.
 - ii. Grading and shaping of the bank to achieve proper slope and seeding conditions.
 - iii. Providing access to water for livestock by installing livestock crossings that will retard sedimentation and pollution. 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.
 - iv. Streambanks bordering only agricultural and forestal lands. Other land, such as recreational, urban and built-up or residential lots are not eligible.
2. Streambank stabilization performed under the practice shall be protected from damage by livestock and equipment. For fencing, the **WP-2 Stream Protection** practice must be used.
3. Cost-share and tax credit are **not** authorized for tidal waters; only freshwater streams are eligible. Cost-share is not authorized for the establishment of marsh or dune stabilization species. All appropriate local, state and federal permits must be obtained before cost-share can be authorized.

4. Consideration must be given to wildlife and environmental issues when designing the practice.
5. Soil loss rates must be computed for all applications for use in establishing priority considerations.
6. This is a one-time incentive and not eligible for reapplication on the same site. Lifespan requirements can be waived if damaged by flooding.
7. This practice is subject to the following NRCS standards on a site specific basis, if utilized: 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 must 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. By accepting either a cost-share payment or a state tax credit for this practice, the participant agrees to maintain all practice components for the specified lifespan. This practice is subject to spot check by the District throughout the lifespan of the practice and failure to maintain the practice may result in reimbursement of cost-share and/or tax credits.

C. Rate(s)

1. The VACS payment will not exceed 75% of the approved estimated cost or eligible actual cost, whichever is less.
2. As set forth by Virginia Code, the Commonwealth currently provides a tax credit for implementation of certain agricultural best management practices as discussed in the Tax Credit Guidelines of the VACS Manual.
3. If a participant receives cost-share, only the participant's eligible out-of-pocket share of the project cost is used to determine the tax credit.

D. 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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