

Name of Practice: VOLUNTARY STRIPCROPPING SYSTEMS  
DCR Specifications for No. VSL-3

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's voluntary strip cropping systems best management practice that are applicable to all contracts entered into with respect to that practice.

A. Description and Purpose

This practice will promote growing crops in a systematic arrangement of strips or bands across the general land slope to reduce water erosion and nutrient loss.

The purpose of this practice is to document and improve water quality by reducing the movement of sediment and nutrients from cultivated crop fields where other cultural and management practices alone are not adequate to reduce losses to tolerable limits.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. On acreage devoted to row crops, one of the following must apply:
  - i. The crop stubble or residue must be left on the land during the winter.
  - ii. A winter cover crop must be established.
  - iii. Adequate protective tillage operations must be performed.
2. For contour stripcropping systems, tillage and planting operations must be performed as nearly as practical on the contour.
3. This practice is subject to NRCS Standard 585 Contour Strip Cropping.
4. Soil loss rates must be computed for all applications.
5. The practice must not be in lifespan from any other conservation program.
6. All practice components implemented should be maintained for a minimum of 5 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.

7. Producers must be fully implementing a current Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) on all agricultural production acreage contained within the field that this practice will be implemented on. 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).

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.

Revised March, 2018