

Virginia Agricultural BMP Cost-share Program (VACS) Program Update for PY2023

- Please Mute your Microphones
- Type Your Name and Affiliation in the Chat for Sign-In



June 2022

- Webinar is Recorded
- Slides Will Be Sent to District Technical Staff



New Ag. Incentives Program Manager!

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Today's Schedule

- VACS Guidelines and Specifications Updates
 - Blair Gordon, SWCD Liaison, DCR
 - Amy Walker, Eastern Area Manager, DCR
 - Amanda Pennington, P.E., District Engineering Services Manager, DCR
 - Raleigh Coleman, Ag. BMP Engineering Specialist, DCR
- District Engineering Services Updates
 - Ben Chester, P.E., Ag BMP Engineer, DCR
- CREP
 - Emily Horsley, Farm Programs Specialist, USDA FSA
 - Chad Wentz, State Resource Conservationist, NRCS
 - Stacy Horton, Conservation District Coordinator (Radford), DCR
- DEQ Agricultural Loans Program Update
 - Phil Davis, Ag BMP Project Manager, DEQ



How We Got Here – The TAC

- Normal AgBMP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) activities resumed in CY2021
- The TAC advanced 24 recommendations to the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board
- Two key changes to VACS Program Guidelines
- Approximately 15 specifications were edited.
- Seven additional specifications were created:
 - 5 added to VACS for PY2023
 - 2 being piloted in PY2023 i.e. WFA-CC and WFA-NM
- Potentially two more changes coming from Va. Soil and Water Conservation Board for participant caps and cover crop rates



How We Got Here - SWCB

- · VACS Manual approval by SWCB in April.
- Still waiting on final state budget approval
 - Va. Soil and Water Conservation Board will meet on June 24th to approve the FY23 Policy and SWCD allocations and grant agreements.
- VACS Update Webinars on June 6th and 14th.
- Manuals are printed, CDC will deliver 1 to each SWCD
 - Manual does not currently include Policy or Small Herd sections.
 Will provide those to SWCDs once approved by the state board.
 - Online version available:
 - https://consapps.dcr.virginia.gov/htdocs/agbmpman_2023/ag bmptoc.htm



Where We Are Headed

- VACS Tracking Program Webinars in July focusing on changes/improvements:
 July 19th and 28th via Zoom.
- TAC Subcommittees will resume meetings in late July or August.
- Full TAC will meet in the fall.



VACS Guidelines Updates





Partnering on Cost-Share

- · What is staying the same?
 - Piggybacking: "Districts and federal agencies may choose to combine resources to fund mutually high priority practices up to a maximum state and federal cost-share rate as listed in the VACS BMP specifications."
 - Example: The WP-4 practice allows a maximum of 75% cost-share; NRCS could take 25% with the SWCD taking 50%, visa versa, or any other combination up to 75%.



Partnering on Cost-Share

- What is NOT staying the same?
 - "Other sources of funding, including funding from local sources, private sources, and non-profit conservation organizations, may provide additional reimbursement opportunities in addition to the rates listed in the VACS BMP specifications, up to 100% cost-share or greater."
 - Example: A SWCD partners with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to offer 100% cost-share on WP-4s (i.e. the SWCD covers 75% and CBF covers 25%).
 - In the past, such exceptions to the VACS cost-share cap had to be formally approved by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board. They no longer do!



Practice Failures due to Unknown Causes

- VACS has long had a "Practice Failures" option for participants to receive additional cost-share funding for practices damaged by an Extreme Act of Nature (EAN).
- However, "very rarely, a conservation practice fails during lifespan in the absence of an Extreme Act of Nature (EAN) or lack of maintenance".
- This includes incidents that occasionally arise where there is no KNOWN reason that a practice fails e.g. a pipeline failure underground.



Practice Failures due to Unknown Causes

- The practice must have been certified and the failure must have occurred during the lifespan of the practice.
- DCR Engineering Services must visit site along with SWCD staff and sign off that the practice may be eligible for additional assistance i.e. versus lack of maintenance.
- If a participant receives additional cost-share funding, they will:
 - Receive the cost-share rate established in the current VACS spec.
 - Be responsible for a newly reset lifespan based upon current VACS spec.



Practice Failures

- The District must:
 - Work with the Participant and DCR Engineering Services to plan an acceptable least cost, technically feasible solution for the repair.
 - Develop a map of the project, including the practice failure "fix", digitize the practice and run Resource Reviews.
 - Formulate the Estimated Instance Cost, Estimated Cost-Share Payment and Tax Credit.
 - Notify the CDC with the information listed above and, if packet is complete, the CDC will route to the Agricultural Incentives Program Manager.



Practice Failures

- If the Practice Failure is approved by the Agricultural Incentives Program Manager, DCR Data Services staff will be notified and make appropriate Tracking adjustments, sending current PY funds back to a new budget in the program year of the failed BMP and adjusting the lifespan of the practice.
- The District Board shall only approve cost-share funding AFTER the fix is approved by DCR and the appropriate adjustments have been made in Tracking.
- After Board approval, project proceeds as normal.



Practice Failures

- Application for Practice Failure can be authorized only once for the specific practice on the specified acreage.
- If the practice fails for the second time after certification and payment, reestablishment will be at the participant's expense and must be maintained for the specified life span.



Contract Signatures

- All signatures on the Part I, II, and III must be signed by appropriate persons for all contracts completed and paid in PY2023 and forward.
 - Applies to carryover practices paid in PY23 and forward.
- If any signature is missing, the total amount of the cost share and proportional TA for that contract will be withheld from next years allocations
- Files will be examined during Audits, Cost Share File Admin Reviews, and verifications
- This is a contract law issue!
- Language: part (17) of the FY23 CS/TA Grant



Animal Waste Practices



Credit: Shenandoah Valley SWCD



New Practices

- New Animal Waste CCIs for the first time!
 - CCI-WP-4 for Animal Waste Facilities
 - Base rate \$5,000/facility, plus \$1.50/animal unit for poultry or \$25/all other animal units.
 - CCI-WP-4C for Composters
 - \$250/existing mortality composting bin



WP-4B Dairy Loafing Lot Management System

- NRCS Standard Updates
 - 512 Updated to new Pasture and Hay Planting title
 - 580 Streambank and Shoreline Protection removed



WP-4B Dairy Loafing Lot Management System

- · Clarification on size of sacrifice area:
 - "The sacrifice area should be sized between 600 and 650 square feet per animal (1,000 lb. equivalent). It should be sloped between 1% and 8% minimum."



WP-4B Dairy Loafing Lot Management System

- · Clarification on loose housing facilities:
 - "One lot is designated as a sacrifice area for use in periods of wet weather. If a sacrifice area is impractical due to soil and/or topographical conditions, a loose housing structure may be substituted for the sacrifice lot. The sacrifice lot or covered facility includes a feeding area as well as a bedded area with a manure storage area if needed."
 - "If a loose housing structure is included as part of the practice, manure storage associated with the manure collection area of the feed lane should be considered as an eligible component of the practice."



WP-4B Dairy Loafing Lot Management System

- · Clarification on loose housing facilities:
 - "The applicant is required to sign a Dry Manure Storage Structure Agreement (DCR199-86, Revised 03/18) or similar District agreement which addresses the minimum criteria prior to receiving any funds."
 - "When a feed lane is utilized, manure storage shall be sized based upon livestock time at feed bunks, up to six (6) months storage of existing need."



WP-4LL Dairy Loafing Lot Management System

- NRCS Standard Updates
 - 512 Updated to new Pasture and Hay Planting title



WP-6 Agricultural Chemical & Fertilizer Handling Facility

- Removed from the VACS Program
- Unlike other VACS specifications, there is no existing water quality problem at time of sign-up.
- Minimal historic sign-ups.



Cover Crop Practices



Credit: Tri-County/City SWCD



SL-8M Small Grain and Mixed Cover Crop for Nutrient Management and Residue Management with Fall Manure Application

- New practice for the VACS Program!
- Essentially the same as SL-8B except with a fall manure application.



SL-8M Cover Crop with Fall Manure

- Full implementation of NMP is required.
- Application of manure (organic) amendments are allowed between the harvesting of the previous crop and prior to planting.
- No nutrients may be applied at planting.



SL-8M Cover Crop with Fall Manure

 No nutrients from any source are allowed between the harvesting of the previous crop and March 1 of the next calendar year, except that use of manure (with less than 40 lbs. N per acre tested) is permitted if all of the following conditions are met.



SL-8M Cover Crop with Fall Manure

- Requirements:
 - Inadequate manure storage is available for the winter at the source;
 - Manure is applied in accordance with a Nutrient Management Plan prepared by a Virginia certified Nutrient Management Plan;
 - New plans shall be written for a period of one to three years.



SL-8M Cover Crop with Fall Manure

- Before payment, the following should be submitted:
 - A copy of the NMP containing the planner's Virginia Nutrient Management Certification number;
 - An invoice for planning services of the private certified planner; (typo in manual, this will not be required)
 - A completed Imported Manure Supplier Verification form (if applicable).



SL-8M Cover Crop with Fall Manure

- Seeding rates and species prescribed in Manual.
- Aerial seeding not allowed (a Bay Model requirement).
- 60% cover must be reached by Dec. 15.
- 60% cover must be maintained through March 14th.



SL-8M Cover Crop with Fall Manure

<u>Area</u>	Early Planting Date	Standard Planting Date
Cities of Chesapeake & VA Beach	November 10	November 30
Coastal Plain (including the Eastern Shore)	November 10	November 30
<u>Piedmont</u>	October 25	November 15
Mountain and Valley	October 20	November 10



SL-8M Cover Crop with Fall Manure

- \$15/acre Base Rate
- \$22/acre Early Planting Bonus
- \$8/acre Rye Bonus
- A total of \$45/acre MAXIMUM



WQ-1 Riparian Grass Filter Strips

- Clarified that this filter strips practice is for riparian strips only; this is a crediting issue.
- Riparian grass filter strips should be adjacent to cropland or animal holding areas.
- Generally 35-100 feet wide.



WQ-1 *Riparian* Grass Filter Strips

- Buffer payment added for practice!
- Grazing (including flash grazing) and haying are not allowed in the protected area during the duration of the practice.
- If at any time during the practice lifespan the participant is found to be grazing (including flash grazing) their livestock in the buffer, as documented by photographic evidence, the District shall require the repayment of the entire buffer payment (i.e. non-prorated).



WQ-1 *Riparian* Grass Filter Strips

Minimum	Lifespan	Cost-share	Buffer payment	Buffer payment
Riparian		rate	rate	сар
Grass Filter				
	15 years	100%	\$80 per acre per	\$18,000 per
50'			year	contract
30	10 years	95%	\$80 per acre per	\$12,000 per
			year	contract
	15 years	90%	\$80 per acre per	\$18,000 per
35'			year	contract
	10 years	85%	\$80 per acre per	\$12,000 per
			year	contract

NOTE: The buffer payment cap is the maximum a participant can be paid per tract even when multiple practices with buffer payments are approved in a given program year (for example, but not limited to, FR-3, SL-6F, SL-6W, WP-2W and WQ-1).

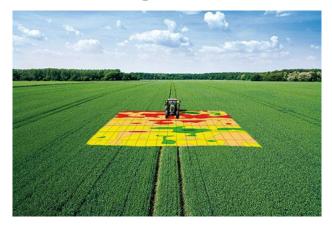


SL-8 Protective Cover for Specialty Crops

- · Clarifications:
 - Covers vegetables, tree crops, perennial vine crops, ornamentals, horticultural crops, tobacco, hemp, turf, small grains, and other similar crops.
 - Seed must be planted and certified no later than November 30.
 - All cover crops must maintain a minimum of 60% cover (by December 15) through length of lifespan.



Nutrient Management Practices



Credit: ingenia.org



NM-3C Sidedress Application of Nitrogen on Corn

 Costs for soil nitrate test sample collection and analysis by a commercial lab will be reimbursed at \$12/sample (an increase from \$8/sample).



NM-5N Precision Nutrient Management on Cropland – Nitrogen Application

- Costs for a pre-sidedress nitrate test (PSNT) of fall soil nitrate test sample collection and analysis by a commercial lab will be reimbursed at \$12/sample (an increase from \$8/sample).
- Up to one PSNT per field.



NM-5P Precision Nutrient Management on Cropland – Phosphorus Application

- Acres receiving a zero application rate based upon the soil test results of zone or grid sampling also qualify for a payment rate of \$8/acre.
- This change makes the NM-5P consistent with NM-3C and NM-5N.



Forestry Practices



Credit: Chesapeake Bay Program



FR-1 Afforestation of Crop, Hay and Pasture Land

 Clarified that grazing of livestock is not permitted for the lifespan of the practice.



FR-3 Woodland Buffer Filter Area

· Buffer payment added!

Lifespan	Buffer payment rate	Buffer payment cap
15 years	\$80 per acre per	\$18,000 per
10 years	year \$80 per acre per	contract \$12,000 per
	year	contract

NOTE: The buffer payment cap is the maximum a participant can be paid per tract even when multiple practices with buffer payments are approved in a given program year (for example, but not limited to, FR-3, SL-6F, SL-6W, WP-2W and WQ-1).



- New practice for PY23!
- Meant to provide maintenance assistance for individuals installing voluntary riparian forested buffers.
- Idea came from non-profit partners on the TAC that wanted a way for their riparian buffer projects to be "captured and counted" while encouraging landowner maintenance.



- NOT for participants in any other state or federal contract requiring buffer maintenance (i.e. EQIP, CSP, CREP, etc).
- Thus, NOT for FR-3 participants which:
 - Are required to maintain their buffers within lifespan.
 - Now include a huge buffer payment in addition to existing 95% cost-share and incentives.



- The local VDOF forester will review the state of the existing buffer and provide management recommendations.
- DOF Form 84 is required: "Hardwood Reinspection Field Tally Sheet"



- Types of maintenance eligible for payment include:
 - Mowing between trees;
 - Herbicide treatments of areas around trees;
 - Trimming/weeding around trees;
 - Monitoring and removal of invasive species;
 - Checking and maintaining tree shelters and stakes, including survival checks;



- Types of maintenance eligible for payment include (continued):
 - Removing bird nets from tree tubes;
 - Replanting to replace dead trees;
 - Establishment of ground cover (only if not required/paid for during tree planting);
 - Additional activities included in an approved plan.



- Gullied or eroded areas shall be stabilized with suitable ground cover.
- Fescue is discouraged due to competition with trees.
- Grazing of livestock is not permitted in buffer.
- Cost-share is not authorized for commercial plantings i.e. tree farms.



- The riparian buffer being managed through this practice must have been planted within the program year or previous three calendar years.
- In other words, this practice is meant to help voluntary plantings along during the first three years after planting when they are most vulnerable to failure.
- Annual practice with a maximum of three sign-ups allowed on the same buffer.



 Participants that enroll in the FR-3M agree to also enroll in the VFR-3 practice if the buffer has not been reported to the Chesapeake Bay Program through another means.



- Flat rate practice.
- \$350/acre towards maintenance activities as documented in DOF Form 84.
- Reimbursement issued after DOF certifies that all necessary maintenance has been conducted as prescribed.



Stream Exclusion



Credit: Headwaters SWCD



SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Width Buffer

Buffer cap (for payment) raised from 10 to 15 acres.

Minimum fence setback	Lifespan	Cost-share	Buffer payment	Buffer payment
(from the top of		rate	rate	cap
streambank)				
	15 years	100%	\$80 per acre per	\$18,000 per
50'			year	contract
	10 years	95%	\$80 per acre per	\$12,000 per
			year	contract
	15 years	90%	\$80 per acre per	\$18,000 per
35'			year	contract
	10 years	85%	\$80 per acre per	\$12,000 per
			year	contract

NOTE: The buffer payment cap is the maximum a participant can be paid per tract even when multiple practices with buffer payments are approved in a given program year (for example, but not limited to, FR-3, SL-6F, SL-6W, WP-2W and WQ-1).



WP-2W Stream Protection (Fencing with Wide Width Buffer)

Buffer cap (for payment) raised from 10 to 15 acres.

Minimum fence setback	Lifespan	Cost-share	Buffer payment	Buffer payment
(from the top of		rate	rate	сар
streambank)				
	10 years	80%	\$80 per acre per	\$12,000 per
35'			year	contract
33	5 years	75%	\$80 per acre per	\$6,000 per
			year	contract

NOTE: The buffer payment cap is the maximum a participant can be paid per tract even when multiple practices with buffer payments are approved in a given program year (for example, but not limited to, FR-3, SL-6F, SL-6W, WP-2W and WQ-1).



SL-6F Stream Exclusion in Floodplains – NEW!

- New, niche practice in PY23 that is nearly identical to the SL-6W with a few exceptions as discussed in this training.
- Intended for use in areas prone to flooding where the producer wishes to retain usage of a portion of the floodplain and also protect exclusion fencing from destruction by flooding.
- Stream exclusion and off-stream watering facility are required as with all SL-6 variants.



SL-6F Stream Exclusion in Floodplains – NEW!

- The basic idea behind this practice design is as follows:
 - A permanent buffer of 35 or 50 feet is demarcated within the floodplain along the live water.
 - The rest of the lowland can be haved by the farmer, but **no** annual crops and especially grazing allowed!
 - The permanent exclusion fencing is placed "up the hill" in the uplands, along with the alternative watering system.



SL-6F Stream Exclusion in Floodplains – NEW!

- State cost-share and tax credit are limited to pastureland that borders a live stream or CBRPA.
- Exceptions: Severe environmental degradation around features such as springs, seeps, ponds, wetlands or sinkholes, etc.
- Written grazing management plan required if more than three new grazing units are created by the installation of interior fencing.



SL-6F Stream Exclusion in Floodplains – NEW!

- A buffer of at least 35 or 50 feet must be established and physically delineated with readily visible posts, rods, signs or some other identifiable method.
- The demarcation must stay in place for the length of lifespan and be repaired if damaged by flooding.



SL-6F Stream Exclusion in Floodplains – NEW!

- Buffer must be maintained as perennial species throughout the practice lifespan.
- No fertilizers applied in the buffer.
- Grazing (including flash grazing) and haying are not allowed in the buffer during lifespan. If at any time the participant is caught grazing (including flash grazing) as documented by photographic evidence, the District shall require non-prorated repayment of the entire buffer payment.



SL-6F Stream Exclusion in Floodplains – NEW!

- The area between the edge of the buffer and the exclusion fencing can be managed for hay and is not eligible to receive a buffer payment.
- Grazing is not permitted. Once again, if a participant is caught grazing this area, they must repay the entire buffer payment.
- This area can be enrolled in other VACS practices for hayland (i.e. nutrient management).



SL-6F Stream Exclusion in Floodplains – NEW!

Minimum fence setback	Lifespan	Cost-share	Buffer payment	Buffer payment
(from the top of		rate	rate	сар
streambank)				
	15 years	100%	\$80 per acre per	\$18,000 per
50'			year	contract
	10 years	95%	\$80 per acre per	\$12,000 per
			year	contract
	15 years	90%	\$80 per acre per	\$18,000 per
35'			year	contract
	10 years	85%	\$80 per acre per	\$12,000 per
			year	contract

NOTE: The buffer payment cap is the maximum a participant can be paid per tract even when multiple practices are approved in a given program year (for example, but not limited to, FR-3, SL-6F, SL-6W, WP-2W and WQ-1).



PY22 VACS Updates Presentation

SL-7 Extension of Watering Systems

- Since this is an upland field practice (i.e. non-riparian) meant to facilitate rotational grazing, the TAC decided that it doesn't make sense for SL-7 to mandate a minimum exclusion distance for the riparian fields.
- Previously the practice required a minimum 10 foot setback; that requirement has been dropped.



SL-7 Extension of Watering Systems

 Still a variety of options in order to encourage maximum buffers when a practice is signed up concurrently with a SL-6 Variant.

Minimum fence setback (from the top of streambank)	Lifespan	Cost-share rate
35'	15 years	80%
33	10 years	75%
<35°	15 years	55%
S 33	10 years	50%

 Remember that for concurrent sign-ups, the SL-6 and SL-7 lifespans chosen MUST MATCH.



PY23 CREP Update

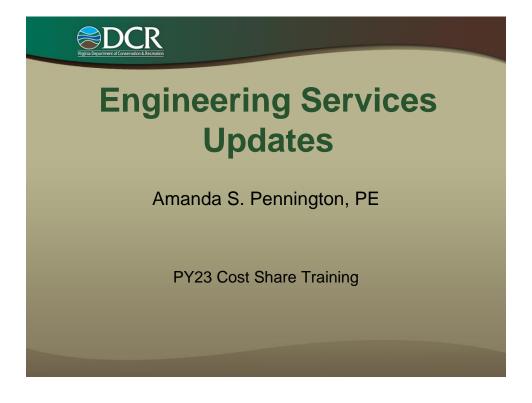


- Overall budget of \$6,000,000 (pending state budget approval).
- · Non-Basin Specific.
- State cost-share rate increasing to 50%, thereby giving each participant 100% costshare when including federal cost-share.
- The State still pays a rental payment of \$5/acre/year; the feds continue with annual rental payments and various incentives.



QUESTIONS?





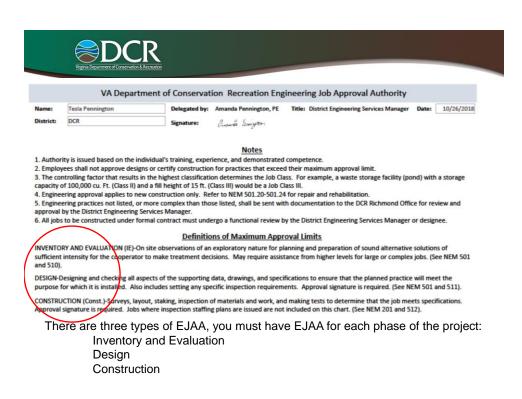


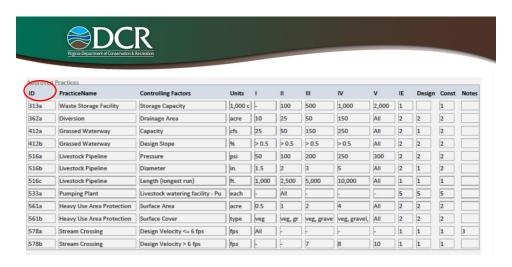
- EJAA Sheets
- NM Plan Check
- Piggyback Projects
- New Standard Drawings
- Tracking Changes



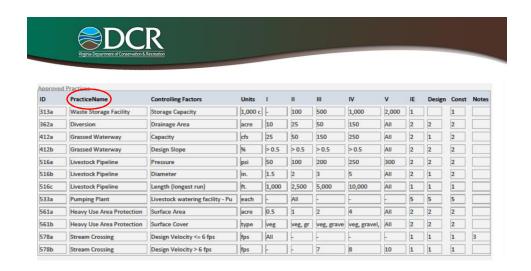
Understanding your EJAA Sheet

- As a reminder, you are not authorized to design practices that are outside of your EJAA
- If you do and the practice fails, you are not covered under the DCR engineering program and open yourself up to liability issues
- That's why it is so important to know what you have!

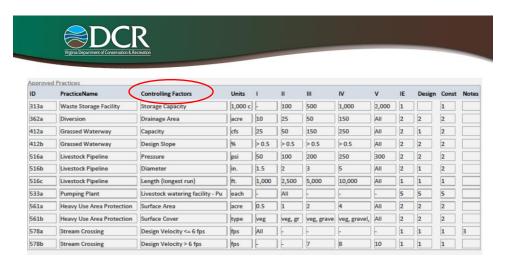




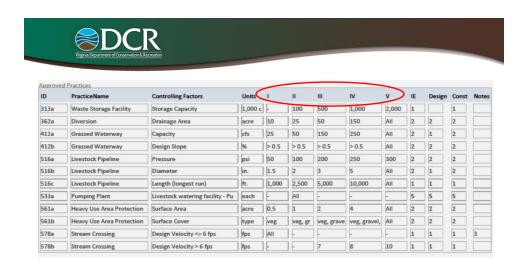
ID-This is the NRCS Conservation Practice Standard ID. Note, the lower case letters indicate different controlling factors for issuance. For example, stream crossing, 578, can be issued for less than 6 fps (a) or greater than 6 fps (b).



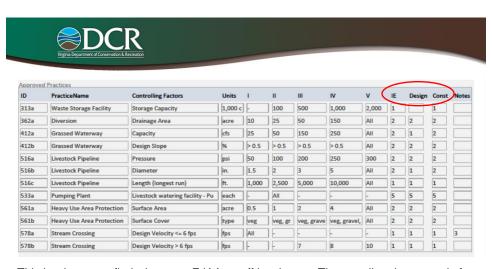
Practice Name-this is the NRCS Conservation Practice Standard name



There may be several controlling factors for each NRCS practice standard, as indicated by the lower case letters under ID. You may earn EJAA for one or all of the Controlling factors.

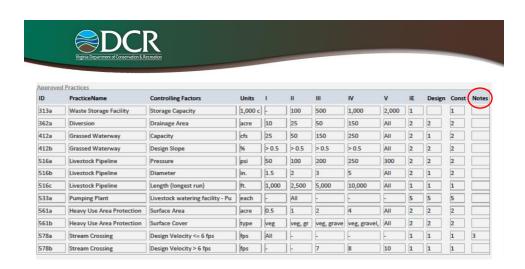


This lists the cutoffs for each controlling factor. You can refer to these columns for information regarding what you are authorized to design with your EJAA.



This is where you find what your EJAA cutoff levels are. They are listed separately for I&E, Design and Construction. Please note, if the design exceeds these levels, you do not have the authority to approve the project at any phase.

Example-a watering system calls for 2600 feet of pipeline on the longest run, Tesla does not have the authority to approve the design NOR the as built for this project. He would need level 3 EJAA to do so.



For most NRCS Standards, this column will be blank. If a number is shown, as it is above for 578a, refer to the notes directly below your EJAA chart.



NM Plan Check for Animal Waste

- An updated Nutrient Management plan is required for all animal waste practices (WP-4 suite)
- There have been several cases across the state of NM plans not being updated per the requirement
- Ben and Amanda will now be checking NM to make sure they have been updated prior to issuing approval for project payout



NM Plan Check for Animal Waste

- This is NOT a check for NM plan accuracy!
- We just need to see the summary to make sure the plan has been updated
- Start early! Encourage your farmers to contact DCR NM planners ASAP as to not delay project payment



Piggyback Projects

- As more and more VACS funding is available, Districts are providing increasing cost share to piggyback projects
- Districts need to make sure they are signing the participant up for the right VACS practice and paying on eligible components



Piggyback Projects

- A few friendly reminders when doing a piggyback project with NRCS:
 - The project still has to qualify for VACS funding per the VACS specification and there must be an existing water quality problem
 - The District and/or DCR should be involved early.
 There may be conflicts with how the project is planned by NRCS and the VACS project specs.
 - For example, VACS has very specific requirements for the management of manure packs and compliance checks and this may be different from what NRCS requires.



New Standard Drawings

- NRCS had a webinar on May 19, 2022 for the new Watering Facility Design Note
 - They have developed updated standard drawings as well
 - These drawings will be placed in the tracking program. Notification will be sent when they are available.
 - The meeting was recorded and will be posted on either the DCR website or in tracking, a link will be sent out when available.



Tracking Changes

- Starting July 1, 2022, projects for EJAA reviews will be selected randomly.
- This requires changes in tracking so we know who signs off on what.
- District staff will have to enter each NRCS component into a chart with their name.
- This is the person who approved the design.



Tracking Changes



SL-6 Example

- Choose "yes", note you might have different folks working on different components
- 516-Tesla
- 533-Ben
- 561-Blair
- 578-Amanda





Agenda

- Authorities/Agreements
- History
- Purpose/Goals
- Enrollment Process
- Partnership Coordination



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85



CREP Enrollment Process



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Images Courtesy of NRCS

2019 National Conservation Programs Training



Step	Continuous CRP Signup Activity	Reference
1	Producer:	Paragraph 211
	expresses an interest in enrolling in CRP	
	indicates the acreage they want to enroll on digital	
	imagery/map and identifies the practice they want to enroll.	
2	County Office determines whether all the following are met:	Paragraphs 81, 126, 130, 131,
	all producer eligibility requirements	151, and 181
	all land eligibility requirements	
	 CRP county cropland limit has not been exceeded. 	
3	If all requirements in step 2 are:	TERRA and
		COLS User
	 met, create a TERRA scenario, upload it into COLS, and print CRP-2C 	Guide
	not met; Stop , do not proceed, and inform producer the eligibility requirements are not met using CRP-26.	Subparagraph 215 A and 1-APP



Farm Service Agency fsa.usda.gov

87



CREP Signup Process

- 4 COC or CED provides the following to NRCS or TSP:
 - unsigned CRP-2C
 - geospatial data/map identifying acreage offered.
 - 4 FSA County Office will also provide to SWCD:
 - Unsigned CRP-2C,
 - TERRA scenario including location map.

NRCS will coordinate with local DOF by providing necessary information if the offer is for a tree planting practice.

Farm Service Agency

Subparagraph 211 D

sa.usda.gov



Step	Continuous CRP Signup Activity	Reference
5A	Based on a site visit, NRCS/TSP determines, using the	Paragraphs 181
	Documentation of Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet, if:	and 211,
		Exhibit 11, and
	 implementation of the CRP practice offered is feasible and 	NRCS
	needed to, and will, solve or address the resource concern(s)	Documentation
	listed for the CRP practice	of Suitability
		and Feasibility Worksheet
	 the existing cover is solving or addressing the resource concern(s) in the CRP practice purpose 	worksneet
	concern(s) in the CRP practice purpose	
	practice offered meets the purpose of the CRP practice	
	according to Exhibit 11	
	, and the second	
	the acreage offered is suitable for installation of the NRCS	
	conservation practices needed to apply the CRP practice.	



Service Agency fsa.usda.gov

89



CREP Signup Process

Step	Continuous CRP Signup Activity	Reference
6	NRCS or TSP:	Subparagraph
		211 F, NRCS
	returns unsigned CRP-2C and geospatial data/map to County	Documentation
	Office	of Suitability
		and Feasibility
	provides the County Office:	Worksheet,
		and/or
	 for new land (land not currently enrolled in CRP) offered, 	applicable
	a signed and dated Documentation of Suitability and	NRCS
	Feasibility Worksheet and other documentation supporting	document
	NRCS determination, if applicable	
	for land currently enrolled in CRP being offered for re-	
	enrollment, either conservation assistance notes, status	
	review form, or State NRCS Office developed form, as	
	applicable, and other documentation supporting NRCS	
	determination, if applicable.	



Service Agency



7 COC or CED reviews NRCS or TSP documents and findings. County Office files all documents received from NRCS or TSP in the CRP folder. Paragraphs 211, 215, and 603

If NRCS or TSP determined the practice and acreage offered is:

- for new land (land not currently enrolled in CRP):
 - not suitable, needed, and feasible; Stop and notify the producer the practice is not acceptable using CRP-26
 - suitable, needed, and feasible without any changes; go to step 9
 - suitable, needed, and feasible, but only if required changes are made; go to step 8

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91



CREP Signup Process

- COC or CED notifies producer of required changes needed to make the practice acceptable. If producer:
- Paragraph 215
- agrees to make all required changes, go back to step 3 and create new TERRA scenario, CRP-2C, and geospatial data/map, then proceed to step 9
- does not agree to make all required changes, Stop and notify producer offer is not acceptable using CRP-26.



Farm Service Agency

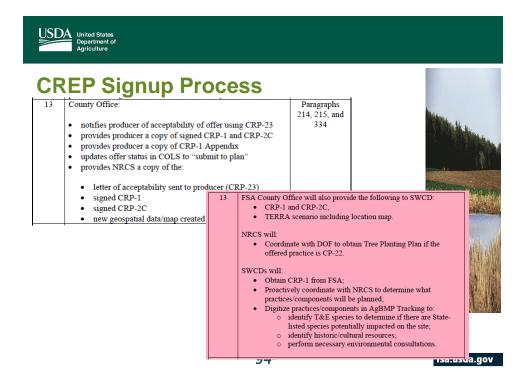
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Step	Continuous CRP Signup Activity	Reference
9	County Offices will ensure that the base limitation is not exceeded.	Paragraphs 212 and 401
10	County Office completes and prints CRP-2C and CRP-1 and notifies the producer that CRP-2C and CRP-1 are ready for signature.	Paragraphs 214 and 215
11	County Office completes paid-for measurement service, if requested.	Paragraph 215
12	Producer signs and dates completed CRP-2C and CRP-1, and provides the signed documents to the County Office.	Subparagraph 215 B



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14	NRCS provides County Office with:	Paragraphs 366 and 367
	NRCS signed conservation plan and all supporting documentation	
	NRCS_CPA_52 with the NRCS portion completed.	

14 NRCS wil

- obtain DOF Tree Planting Plan to be included in the Conservation Plan for CP22.
- provide a copy of the Conservation Plan, including CPA-052 to SWCD.

SWCD will:

- · obtain final Conservation Plan details from NRCS;
- complete/finalize State Resource Reviews;
- sign Conservation Plan.



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95



CREP Signup Process

Step	Continuous CRP Signup Activity	Reference Subparagraph 366 B,	
15	County Office:		
	completes all necessary consultations, if needed	paragraph 367, and COLS	
	obtains copy of all permits or other permissions necessary to perform and maintain practices as provided by NRCS on NRCS-CPA-52, Section G	User Guide	
	completes FSA's portion of NRCS-CPA-52		
	ensures all required signatures on CRP-1 and conservation plan have been obtained		
	updates offer status in COLS to "submit to COC".		



Farm Service Agency



15 FSA County Office will submit final contract details to FSA State Office (STO) using VA Exhibit 8.

FSA STO will coordinate with DCR to confirm State CREP funding availability.

DCR will:

- · provide funding confirmation to FSA STO,
- switch the status to "Funding Availability Confirmed" in AgBMP Tracking;
- include local SWCD in response to FSA STO;
- ensure SWCD completed requirements in Step 14.

SWCD will:

formally approve the project.

NOTE: If any additional informational is needed by SWCD, then SWCD will coordinate with local USDA to request information

FSA STO will provide authorization for approval of CRP-1 to local FSA County Office.



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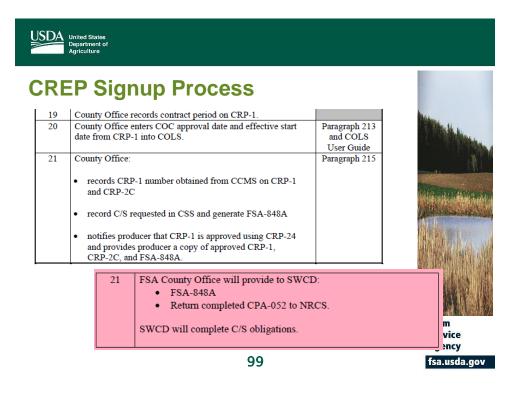
CREP Signup Process

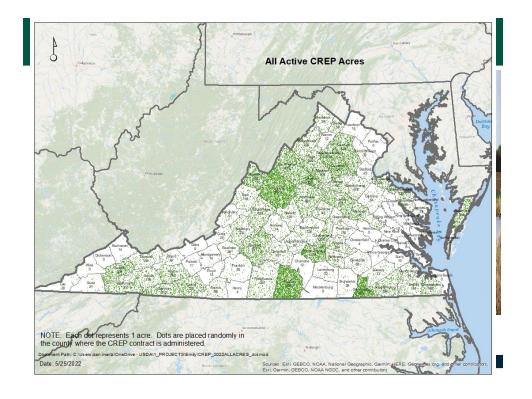
		10.7633
16	If determined complete and acceptable, COC or CED signs	Paragraph 366
	conservation plan.	
17	County Office ensures that AGI certification is filed and	Paragraph 131
	recorded in subsidiary file for the FY of the COC/CED	
	approval date.	
1.8	COC or CED approves CRP-1	Paragraph 401

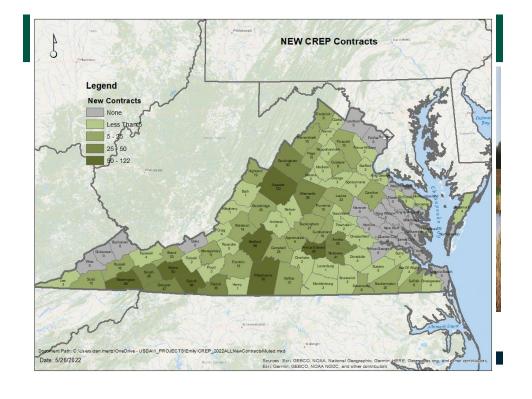
17 FSA County Office will provide completed CRP-1 to SWCD.

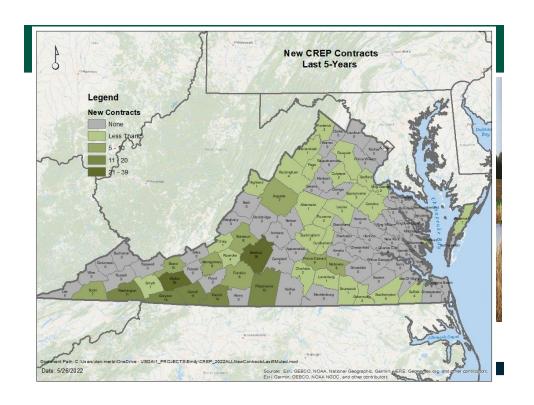
SWCD will enter contract information in the AgBMP Tracking Program in the "Funds Pending Approval" status.

Farm Service Agency











The Power of Partnerships

- Partnerships are the most effective way to deliver, promote and successfully implement conservation across the commonwealth.
- Our partnership efforts define who we are as an agency.
- From the local, state, regional and national levels, we all play a critical role in making conservation as effective as it is today.



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103



Ecosystem Services

- Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry
- · Chesapeake Bay Goals
- · Water Quality
- Soil Erosion
- · Carbon Sequestration
- · Weather Resiliency
- · Plant Productivity
- Livestock Health
- Wildlife Habitat



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Virginia's Agricultural BMP Loan

AgBMP Program Coordinator Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Lars Bolton April 28, 2022

DEQ AgBMP Loan Program Basics

- Direct lending to agricultural producers to implement VACS and NRCS water quality agricultural best management practices
- 0% interest for up to 10 years dependent on lifespan of practices and useful life (No Till Drill up to 7 years)
- Cost-share, financial assistance and other grant funds go directly to pay down the principal
- Construction or equipment quotes are required to close a loan



107

DEQ

DEQ AgBMP Loan Program Basics

- DEQ
 - Evaluates and authorizes projects
 - Provides "boots on the ground"
 - Work directly with farmers (loan applicants/recipients), SWCD, and NRCS
 - Provides construction oversight
- Virginia Resources Authority
 - · Conduct credit reviews
 - Underwrite loans
 - Disbursements during construction
 - Collection of payments



DEQ

AgBMP Loan Program- Projects since July 1, 2019

- 216 total applications
 - 69 structural practice loans
 - 19 no till drill loans
 - 55 VACS
 - 6- DuPont Mercury Settlement
 - 33 Federal (CREP/EQIP)
 - 14 co-funded with VACS

DEQ DEQ

AgBMP Loan Program- Projects since July 1, 2019

Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 18,000,000.00
Additional Funds Authorized by DEQ	\$ 10,000,000.00
Total Projects and Funds Obligated	\$ 18,620,350.11
Total Repayments	\$ 3,604,253.00
Total Unobligated Funds	\$ 12,983,902.89

Application Status	~	Total Number	Total Value	Average
Loan Closed		41	\$ 7,824,404.90	\$ 190,839.14
Construction Complete		25	\$ 3,406,721.64	\$ 136,268.87
Equipment Purchase Complete		3	\$ 152,750.00	\$ 50,916.67
PF Granted		6	\$ 1,631,825.91	\$ 271,970.99
PF Granted SWCD		13	\$ 438,156.47	\$ 33,704.34

DEQ

Current DEQ Ag BMP Loan Program Eligible Practices

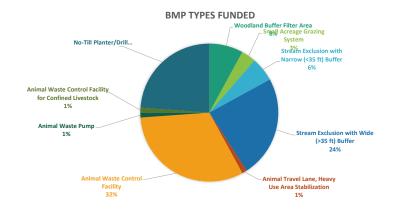
Practice #	Practice Name	Practice #	Practice Name
EM-1AT	Small Scale Manure Composting for Equine Operations – Aerated Systems	WP-2W	Stream Protection - Fencing with Wide (>35 ft) Width Buffer
EM-1T	Small Scale Manure Composting for Equine Operations – Static Systems	WP-2T*	Stream Protection (fencing)
FR-3	Woodland Buffer Filter Area	WP-4	Animal Waste Control Facility
LE-1T*	Livestock Exclusion with Riparian Buffers	WP-4B	Dairy Loafing Lot Management System
LE-2T*	Livestock Exclusion with Reduced Setback	WP-4C	Composter Facilities
SE-2	Shoreline Stabilization	WP-4E	Animal Waste Structure Pumping Equipment
		WP-4F	Animal Mortality Incinerator Facilities
SL-1***	Long Term Vegetative Cover On Cropland	WP-4LC**	Animal Waste Control Facility for Confined Livestock Operations
SL-4	Terrace System		
SL-5	Diversion	WP-4LL**	Loafing Lot Management System with Manure Management (excluding bovine dairy)
SL-6A	Small Acreage Grazing System	141D 40588	
SL-6AT	Small Acreage Grazing System	WP-4SF**	Seasonal Feeding Facility with Attached Manure Storage
SL-6B	Alternative Water System	WP-5	Stormwater Retention Pond
SL-6N	Stream Exclusion with Narrow (<35 ft) Width Buffer and Grazing Land Management	WP-6	Agricultural Chemical & Fertilizer Handling Facility
		WP-7	Surface Water Runoff Impoundment for Water Quality
SL-6W	Stream Exclusion with Wide (>35 ft) Width Buffer and Grazing Land Management	WP-8	Relocation of Confined Feeding Operations From Environmentally Sensitive Areas
SL-7	Extension of Watering Systems	WQ-5	Water Table Control Structure
SL-11B	Farm Road, Animal Travel Lane, Heavy Use Area Stabilization	WQ-6	Constructed Wetlands
WP-1	Sediment Retention, Erosion or Water Control Structures	WQ-6B	Wetland Restoration
WP-2A	Streambank Stabilization	WQ-7	Irrigation Water Recycling System
WP-2B	Stream Crossing & Hardened Access	WQ-8	Fuel Storage Treatment
	-	WQ-11	Agricultural Sinkhole Protection
WP-2C	Stream Channel Stabilization	WQ-12	Roof Runoff Management System
WP-2N	Stream Protection -Fencing with Narrow (<35 ft) Width Buffer	NTD*	No-Till Planter/Drill

^{*} LE-1T replaced with SL-6W for FY2021, LE-2T replaced with SL-6N for FY2021, WP-2T replaced with WP-2N and/or WP-2W for FY 2021
**N Newly eligible loan practices beginning in FY 2021
**SL-1 has maximum loan term of 5 years, NTD has maximum loan term of 7 years

DEQ

111

AgBMP Loan Program- Projects since July 1, 2019



DEQ

Questions?

DEQ

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113

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