

Virginia Agricultural BMP Cost-share Program (VACS) Program Update for FY2020



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July 2019

Virginia Agricultural BMP Cost-Share Program (VACS) Purpose and Goal

“The VACS Program’s goal is to improve water quality in the state's streams, rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay. VACS offers cost-share assistance as an incentive to implement selected Best Management Practices (BMPs). The basis of VACS is to encourage the voluntary installation of agricultural BMPs to meet Virginia's non-point source pollution reduction water quality objectives.”

How We Got Here – The TAC

- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met July 2018 through January 2019 to consider changes to the VACS Program
- Changes presented to the Soil and Water Conservation Board (SWCB) in March 2019 for comments and guidance
- VACS Manual approval by SWCB in April 2019
- VACS Update Meetings Statewide in June 2019
- New Sign-Ups for FY2020 starting July 1st, 2019
- TAC Starts Up Again on July 9th, 2019

Participant Caps

- Participant caps have been raised to \$100,000 per participant per year
- However, lower practice caps are still in place for some practices:
 - \$50,000 per participant per year for SL-7, WP-4C, WP-4F, WP-6
 - \$70,000 per participant per year for SE-2
- Tracking will not automatically catch practice caps

Carryover Process

- Starts on Page II-31 of Manual
- Practices have been split into three categories:
 - Practices with one program year completion dates eligible for carryover (see Page II-32)
 - Practices with two program year completion dates eligible for carryover (see Page II-32)
 - Practices not eligible for carryover (not listed... aka everything else)

Practices with One Program Year Completion Dates Eligible for Carryover

Practices with one-program year completion dates eligible for carryover	
FR-4	Woodland Erosion Stabilization
NM-3C	Split Application of Nitrogen on Corn Using Pre-Sidedress Nitrate Test
NM-5N	Precision Nitrogen Management on Cropland - Nitrogen Application
NM-5P	Precision Nitrogen Management on Cropland – Phosphorous Application
RMP-1	Resource Management Plan Development
RMP-2	Resource Management Plan Implementation
SL-1	Long Term Vegetative Cover on Cropland (May not be carried over more than two planting seasons, i.e. spring and fall.)

Practices with One Program Year Completion Dates Eligible for Carryover

- So What Does This Mean?
 - Prior to the end of a program year, the District must assess all BMPs
 - If justified, the District Board may take formal action to extend the completion date for one additional year, changing the BMP status to “carryover”
 - Practices on this list that are not completed by the end of the additional (2nd) program year will be cancelled; no further extension will be granted

Practices with Two Program Year Completion Dates Eligible for Carryover

Practices with two-program year completion date eligible for carryover	
FR-1	Afforestation of Crop, Hay and Pasture Land
FR-3	Woodland Buffer Filter Area
SE-1	Vegetative Stabilization of Marsh Fringe Areas
SE-2	Shoreline Stabilization
SL-4	Terrace Systems
SL-5	Diversions
SL-6N	Stream Exclusion with Narrow Width Buffer and Grazing Land Management
SL-6W	Stream Exclusion with Wide Width Buffer and Grazing Land Management
SL-7	Extension of Watering Systems
SL-9	Grazing Land Management
SL-11	Permanent Vegetative Cover on Critical Areas
SL-11B	Farm Road, Animal Travel Lane, Heavy Use Area Stabilization
WP-1	Sediment Retention, Erosion or Water Control Structures
WP-2A	Streambank Stabilization
WP-2B	Stream Crossings & Hardened Access
WP-2C	Stream Channel Stabilization
WP-2N	Stream Protection (fencing with Narrow Width Buffer)
WP-2W	Stream Protection (fencing with Wide Width Buffer)
WP-3	Sod Waterway
WP-4	Animal Waste Control Facilities
WP-4B	Dairy Loafing Lot Management System
WP-4C	Composter Facilities
WP-4F	Animal Mortality Incinerator Facilities
WP-5	Stormwater Retention Pond
WP-6	Agricultural Chemical & Fertilizer Handling Facility
WP-7	Surface Water Runoff Impoundment for Water Quality
WQ-5	Water Table Control Structures
WQ-11	Agricultural Sinkhole Protection

Practices with Two Program Year Completion Dates Eligible for Carryover

- So What Does This Mean?
 - Prior to the end of a program year in which a practice is approved, the District will need to change the status of all contracts that qualify for a two-year completion date to “carryover” to carry the contract into its 2nd program year
 - At the end of the 2nd program year, if justified, the District Board may take formal action to extend the completion date for one additional year (i.e. the 3rd program year), keeping the BMP status as “carryover”

Practices with Two Program Year Completion Dates Eligible for Carryover

- So What Does This Mean (continued)?
 - The District Board may only extend the completion date for one additional program year (i.e. the 3rd program year)
 - If a two-program year practice is still not completed by the end of the 3rd program year, an additional carryover into a 4th program year may be requested by the District for approval by DCR on a case-by-case basis.
 - Any additional carryovers granted by DCR must be complete by the end of the 4th program year or be canceled; no further extension will be granted

SL-6W Carryover Example

- SL-6W signs up in April 2020 (1st PY = FY2020)
 - Can be carried over by District into FY2021 starting July 1 (2nd PY)
 - Not done by June 30th, 2021? District (with justification) can approve a carryover into FY2022 (3rd PY)

SL-6W Carryover Example

- Still not done by June 30th, 2022? District can request a carryover from DCR for moving the project into FY2023 (4th PY)
- To make this work, DCR will pull LOGI reports in early spring and reach out to Districts to discuss projects that may need approval for carrying over into 4th PY
- All carryovers for all years will be formally approved at June District Board Meetings with a signed LOGI report – turned into CDC as a part of EOY reporting
- If approved by DCR, project must be finished in 4th FY (i.e. no carryover into a 5th+ PY)

Process

- All carryovers must be given justification on the Measurements tab – choose up to three options from a pull-down window
- For any carryover requests requiring DCR approval, planners must choose “Other (describe in BMP Comments)” as one of the three choices; give a full description for why a fourth fiscal year is needed in the Comments section on the General tab

Selection of Justifications

Potential Approval Date (Date)	
SWCD Assigned Staff (Text)	
Carryover Measures (for Carryover BMPs only)	
Amount of Completion (Percent) i	<div> << Select One >> Contractor backlog Contractor issues Dry well encountered EQIP piggyback Family or health issues Federal partner contract Multi-phase project Other (describe in BMP Comments) Power company issues Seasonally restricted practice Weather related issues </div>
Estimated Completion Date (Date) i	<div> << Select One >> Contractor backlog Contractor issues Dry well encountered EQIP piggyback Family or health issues Federal partner contract Multi-phase project Other (describe in BMP Comments) Power company issues Seasonally restricted practice Weather related issues </div>
Person Verifying Practice is Under Construction (Text) i	<div> << Select One >> Contractor backlog Contractor issues Dry well encountered EQIP piggyback Family or health issues Federal partner contract Multi-phase project Other (describe in BMP Comments) Power company issues Seasonally restricted practice Weather related issues </div>
Primary Carryover Justification (Reason) i	<div> << Select One >> Contractor backlog Contractor issues Dry well encountered EQIP piggyback Family or health issues Federal partner contract Multi-phase project Other (describe in BMP Comments) Power company issues Seasonally restricted practice Weather related issues </div>
Secondary Carryover Justification (Reason) i	<div> << Select One >> Contractor backlog Contractor issues Dry well encountered EQIP piggyback Family or health issues Federal partner contract Multi-phase project Other (describe in BMP Comments) Power company issues Seasonally restricted practice Weather related issues </div>
Tertiary Carryover Justification (Reason) i	<div> << Select One >> Contractor backlog Contractor issues Dry well encountered EQIP piggyback Family or health issues Federal partner contract Multi-phase project Other (describe in BMP Comments) Power company issues Seasonally restricted practice Weather related issues </div>

* indicates the measure is required

LOGI Report

- Use “Cost-share Program Carryover Report for BMPs Carried Over into FY20”
- This report is what needs to be printed and signed by District Board then turned in to CDC as a part of EOY reports
- Remember that LOGI updates every evening; you’ll need to wait a day to see your justification updates included from Tracking

LOGI Report

Cost-Share Program Carryover Report for BMPs Carried Over into FY20

Funding Source- Tax Credit	Program	Practice Code	Contract Number	BMP_ID	Approval Date	Business	First Name	Last Name	Drainage	Extent Requested	Extent Requested Unit	Amount Approved	Tax Credit Amount Approved	Amount of Completion (percent)	Estimated Completion Date	Person Verifying Practice is Under Construction	FY BMP Approved	FY Carryover Number	Carryover Justification
2015 CB VACS																			
	2015 CB VACS	SL-6		205991	5/11/2017				Chesapeake Bay	800 Lin. Feet		\$575.05		40	5/30/2019	Sam Truban	FY17	3rd FY Carryover	
	2015 CB VACS	SL-6		208479	6/29/2017	The Dryer Farm L.P.			Chesapeake Bay	3050 Lin. Feet		\$19,041.70		90	5/30/2019	Nick Livesay	FY17	3rd FY Carryover	
	2015 CB VACS	SL-6		207714	2/11/2016				Chesapeake Bay	1850 Lin. Feet		\$29,465.16		40	5/30/2019	Sam Truban	FY16	4th FY Carryover	
	2015 CB VACS	SL-6		208130	5/11/2017				Chesapeake Bay	3500 Lin. Feet		\$52,591.00		30	5/30/2019	Dana Gocheur	FY17	3rd FY Carryover	
	2015 CB VACS	SL-6		208498	3/10/2016	Walnut Lane Dairy			Chesapeake Bay	1000 Lin. Feet		\$38,250.00		10	5/30/2019	Sam Truban	FY16	4th FY Carryover	
												\$139,922.91	\$0.00						
2016 CBIG SL-6 Pending Funding																			
	2016 CBIG SL-6 Pending Funding	SL-6		208498	3/10/2016	Walnut Lane Dairy			Chesapeake Bay	1000 Lin. Feet		\$30,941.00		10	5/30/2019	Sam Truban	FY16	4th FY Carryover	
												\$30,941.00	\$0.00						
2017 CB SL-6 Earmark																			
	2017 CB SL-6 Earmark	SL-6		189779	1/10/2018				Chesapeake Bay	3200 Lin. Feet		\$1,338.85		50	5/30/2019	Sam Truban	FY18	2nd FY Carryover	
	2017 CB SL-6 Earmark	SL-6		195820	10/9/2014				Chesapeake Bay	900 Lin. Feet		\$25,000.00		75	5/30/2019	Sam Truban	FY15	5th FY Carryover	
	2017 CB SL-6 Earmark	SL-6		207712	11/17/2015				Chesapeake Bay	2150 Lin. Feet		\$52,300.00		80	5/30/2019	Sam Truban	FY16	4th FY Carryover	
	2017 CB SL-6 Earmark	SL-6		275295	8/11/2016				Chesapeake Bay	1100 Lin. Feet		\$29,323.50		50	5/30/2019	Sam Truban	FY17	3rd FY Carryover	
												\$107,962.35	\$0.00						
2017 CB VACS																			
	2017 CB VACS	SL-6		244044	9/8/2016				Chesapeake Bay	3777 Lin. Feet		\$70,000.00		25	5/30/2019	Dana Gocheur	FY17	3rd FY Carryover	
												\$70,000.00	\$0.00						
2017 CB VACS Transfer																			
	2017 CB VACS Transfer	SL-9		300522	2/8/2018				Chesapeake Bay	24.52 Acres		\$9,215.83		5	5/1/2019	Sam Truban	FY18	2nd FY Carryover	
												\$9,215.83	\$0.00						
2017 CB VACS Transfer - SL-6																			
	2017 CB VACS Transfer - SL-6	SL-6		205991	5/11/2017				Chesapeake Bay	800 Lin. Feet		\$24,412.45		40	5/30/2019	Sam Truban	FY17	3rd FY Carryover	
	2017 CB VACS Transfer - SL-6	SL-6		208479	6/29/2017	The Dryer Farm L.P.			Chesapeake Bay	3050 Lin. Feet		\$42,728.30		90	5/30/2019	Nick Livesay	FY17	3rd FY Carryover	
	2017 CB VACS Transfer - SL-6	SL-6		208490	5/11/2017	Jones Agriculture LLC			Chesapeake Bay	1172 Lin. Feet		\$92,390.65		50	9/30/2019	Alison Sloop	FY17	3rd FY Carryover	Family or health issues, Contractor issues, Other (describe in BMP Comments)
												\$159,531.40	\$0.00						
2018 CB CREP (SB)																			
	2018 CB CREP (SB)	CP-22		303051	4/12/2018	Bee Tree Farms LLC			Chesapeake Bay	3.5 Acres		\$175.00		50	5/30/2019	Sam Truban	FY18	2nd FY Carryover	
	2018 CB CREP (SB)	CRFR-3		303053	4/12/2018	Bee Tree Farms LLC			Chesapeake Bay	3.5 Acres		\$1,181.25		50	5/30/2019	Sam Truban	FY18	2nd FY Carryover	
	2018 CB CREP (SB)	CP-29		303054	4/19/2018	Bee Tree Farms LLC			Chesapeake Bay	2.07 Acres		\$103.50		10	9/30/2018	Sam Truban	FY18	2nd FY Carryover	
	2018 CB CREP (SB)	CRWQ-1		303057	4/19/2018	Bee Tree Farms LLC			Chesapeake Bay	2.07 Acres		\$184.25		10	5/30/2019	Sam Truban	FY18	2nd FY Carryover	
												\$1,644.00	\$0.00						
2018 CB VACS Transfer																			
	2018 CB VACS Transfer	SL-6		186644	12/14/2017				Chesapeake Bay	5718 Lin. Feet		\$155,996.50		20	5/30/2019	Sam Truban	FY18	2nd FY Carryover	
	2018 CB VACS Transfer	SL-6		189779	1/10/2018				Chesapeake Bay	3200 Lin. Feet		\$44,918.65		50	5/30/2019	Sam Truban	FY18	2nd FY Carryover	
	2018 CB VACS Transfer	SL-6		200466	8/11/2016				Chesapeake Bay	1000 Lin. Feet		\$85,325.00		5	5/30/2019	Sam Truban	FY17	3rd FY Carryover	
	2018 CB VACS Transfer	SL-6		203664	12/14/2017				Chesapeake Bay	7500 Lin. Feet		\$82,017.00		5	5/30/2019	Dana Gocheur	FY18	2nd FY Carryover	
	2018 CB VACS Transfer	SL-6		207016	1/10/2018				Chesapeake Bay	4210 Lin. Feet		\$62,025.00		25	9/30/19	Alison Sloop	FY18	2nd FY Carryover	Contractor issues, Power company issues, Other (describe in BMP Comments)
	2018 CB VACS Transfer	SL-6		207034	1/10/2018				Chesapeake Bay	6805 Lin. Feet		\$126,681.50		10	5/1/2019	Nick Livesay	FY18	2nd FY Carryover	
	2018 CB VACS Transfer	SL-6		207035	1/11/2018	The Dryer Farm L.P.			Chesapeake Bay	8775 Lin. Feet		\$121,973.50		20	5/30/2019	Nick Livesay	FY18	2nd FY Carryover	
	2018 CB VACS Transfer	SL-6		207265	1/10/2018				Chesapeake Bay	3250 Lin. Feet		\$22,258.75		20	5/1/2019	Sam Truban	FY18	2nd FY Carryover	
	2018 CB VACS Transfer	SL-6		207713	12/14/2017				Chesapeake Bay	2150 Lin. Feet		\$51,500.00		20	5/1/2019	Sam Truban	FY18	2nd FY Carryover	
	2018 CB VACS Transfer	SL-6		207714	2/11/2016				Chesapeake Bay	1850 Lin. Feet		\$25,287.34		40	5/30/2019	Sam Truban	FY16	4th FY Carryover	
	2018 CB VACS Transfer	SL-6		207754	12/14/2017	French Brothers Dairy			Chesapeake Bay	15000 Lin. Feet		\$99,875.00		20	5/1/2019	Sam Truban	FY18	2nd FY Carryover	
												\$877,858.24	\$0.00						

LOGI Report Detailed

Amount of Completion (percent)	Estimated Completion Date	Person Verifying Practice is Under Construction	FY BMP Approved	FY Carryover Number	Carryover Justification
40	5/30/2019		FY17	3rd FY Carryover	
90	5/30/2019		FY17	3rd FY Carryover	
40	5/30/2019		FY16	4th FY Carryover	
30	5/30/2019		FY17	3rd FY Carryover	
10	5/30/2019		FY16	4th FY Carryover	

1st and 2nd Carryovers in Black, 3rd in Orange, 4th or More in Red

Practice Updates

- Only reviewing changes to the program – not specs that are staying the same
- Some practices had inconsequential changes which we will not be reviewing
 - Ex. WP-4E and WQ-6
 - Both referred to NRCS Standard 634 Manure Transfer when it should have been 634 Waste Transfer; has been corrected for FY20

Stream Exclusion



Credit: Headwaters SWCD

Stream Exclusion Practices

- Greatly enhanced options for Stream Exclusion and Stream Protection this year
- Multiple options will enhance opportunities for selling conservation in the field
- New SL-6, WP-2 and CCI Practices
- Rates Vary Based Upon Width of Buffer and Lifespan

“N and W”

- SL-6, WP-2 and CCI practices have been split into “N and W” versions
- N = “Narrow” buffer options <35 feet
- W = “Wide” buffer options 35+ feet
- Wide buffer options include a buffer payment (for a max of 10 acres) as well as cost-share, whereas narrow buffer options include cost-share only

SL-6W Stream Exclusion with Wide Width Buffer and Grazing Land Management

Minimum fence setback (from the top of streambank)	Lifespan	Cost-share rate	Buffer payment rate	Buffer payment cap
50'	15 years	100%	\$80 per acre per year	\$12,000 per contract
	10 years	95%	\$80 per acre per year	\$8,000 per contract
35'	15 years	90%	\$80 per acre per year	\$12, 000 per contract
	10 years	85%	\$80 per acre per year	\$8,000 per contract

SL-6W Example

- Participant willing to do a 50 foot buffer, totaling 12 acres, for 15 years
- Using the table, cost-share rate for practice installation will be 100%
- Also receives buffer payment of \$80/acre/year
- $\$80/\text{acre}/\text{year} \times 12 \text{ ac} \times 15 \text{ years} = \$14,400$
- Buffer payment will max out at \$12,000 for this contract

SL-6N Stream Exclusion with Narrow Width Buffer and Grazing Land Management

Minimum fence setback (from the top of streambank)	Lifespan	Cost-share rate
25'	15 years	75%
	10 years	70%
10'	15 years	65%
	10 years	60%

SL-6N Example

- Participant willing to do a 10 foot buffer, totaling 2 acres, for 10 years
- Using the table, cost-share rate for practice installation will be 60%
- No buffer payment in SL-6N

Other Important SL-6N and SL-6W Changes

- Clarification that both stream exclusion and an off-stream watering facility are required practice components
- Clarification that haying the buffer is not allowed
- Isolated seeps, springs, wetlands and ponds may be fenced, but shall not be used as sole criteria for determining eligibility for SL-6

Other Important SL-6N and SL-6W Changes

- **CLARIFICATION:** No cost-share/tax credit allowed for any installation of interior fencing and watering facilities to distribute grazing in fields not receiving exclusion fence. (Applicant may apply for SL-7).
- Maximum state practice cap is \$100,000

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

For stream protection without watering system (i.e. using limited access).

Minimum fence setback (from the top of streambank)	Lifespan	Cost-share rate	Buffer payment rate	Buffer payment cap
35'	10 years	80%	\$80 per acre per year	\$8,000 per contract
	5 years	75%	\$80 per acre per year	\$4,000 per contract

WP-2N Stream Protection (Fencing with Narrow Width Buffer)

For stream protection without watering system (i.e. using limited access).

Minimum fence setback (from the top of streambank)	Lifespan	Cost-share rate
25'	10 years	70%
	5 years	65%
10'	10 years	60%
	5 years	55%

Other Important WP-2N and WP-2W Changes

- Clarification that haying the buffer is not allowed
- Cost-share and tax credit are not authorized for hardened travel lanes that are not attached to a crossing or limited access

Other Important WP-2N and WP-2W Changes

- Livestock shade considerations must be given when designing the practices
- Maximum state practice cap is \$100,000

Note on Old VACS Practices

- The following “old” VACS Practices will no longer exist due to new sign-up options:
 - SL-6 – Split in FY20
 - WP-2 – Split in FY20
 - LE-2 – Eliminated in FY20

SL-7 Extension Of Watering Systems

- No longer *only* for CREP; has been renamed accordingly
- For farms where livestock are previously excluded or concurrently excluded with a minimum 35' setback from all surface waters
- Can be used in addition to stream exclusion practices which do not authorize cost-share for any installation that is for interior fencing and watering facilities to distribute grazing in fields *not receiving exclusion fence*.

SL-7 Extension Of Watering Systems

- Cost-share on infrastructure to facilitate rotational grazing in fields where livestock are previously or concurrently excluded with a minimum 35' setback
- On the CREP side, can be installed in conjunction with CP-22 Riparian Forest Buffer or CP-29 Wildlife Habitat Buffer
- 10 year practice lifespan
- 75% cost-share up to \$50,000/landowner/year

SL-9 Grazing Land Management

- Rewritten to focus on the grazing management system including maintenance of proper plant cover (60%+), pH and nutrients, manure management, etc.
- No longer is there traditional % cost-share and tax credit for SL-9

SL-9 Grazing Land Management

- Maximum of 200 acres/participant/year
- Payment only provided once per field at a rate of \$25/acre/year over a three year lifespan for a total of \$75/acre
- Note: Manual mistake caught after printing – two references to a 3 year lifespan and one reference to a 10 year lifespan. The 3 year lifespan is correct.
- Also, references to cost-share and tax credit

CCI-SL-6N and CCI-SL-6W

Highlights

- Practices to maintain existing stream exclusion components (e.g. fencing, pumps, pressure tanks, pipelines, troughs, spring developments, livestock crossings, and hardened accesses)
- Maintenance and use of existing watering systems are required

CCI-SL-6N and CCI-SL-6W

Highlights

- No minimum fencing standards required
- Practices must not be in lifespan from any other conservation program
- Practices subject to spot checks from District annually for the lifespan of the practice (5 years)

CCI-SL-6N and CCI-SL-6W

Highlights

- Practices paid after District staff makes field visit and confirms all components are functioning as intended and needed maintenance has been addressed
- Practices eligible for re-enrollment

Specific Details of CCI-SL-6W

- Stream exclusion fence must be placed a minimum 35 feet from the stream
- Single payment rate of \$1.25 per linear foot of stream bank protected plus:
 - \$250 per trough
 - \$500 per stream crossing
 - \$1,000 per water system

Specific Details of CCI-SL-6N

- Stream exclusion fence must be placed a minimum 10 feet from the stream
- Single payment rate of \$0.75 per linear foot of stream bank protected plus:
 - \$250 per trough
 - \$500 per stream crossing
 - \$1,000 per water system

CCI-WP-2N and CCI-WP-2W

Highlights

- Practices to maintain existing exclusion that keeps livestock from streams and other water features (e.g. wetlands, seeps), including fencing, livestock crossings and hardened access
- No minimum fencing standard required
- Practice must not be in lifespan from any other conservation programs

CCI-WP-2N and CCI-WP-2W

Highlights

- Practices subject to spot checks from District annually for the lifespan of the practice (5 years)
- Practices paid after District staff makes field visit and confirms all components are functioning as intended and needed maintenance has been addressed
- Practices eligible for re-enrollment

Specific Details of CCI-WP-2W

- Stream exclusion fence must be placed a minimum 35 feet from the stream
- Single payment rate of \$1.00 per linear foot of stream bank or the perimeter of the water feature protected plus:
 - \$500 per properly maintained stream crossing or livestock access

Specific Details of CCI-WP-2N

- Stream exclusion fence must be placed a minimum 10 feet from the stream
- Single payment rate of \$0.75 per linear foot of stream bank or the perimeter of the water feature protected plus:
 - \$500 per properly maintained stream crossing or livestock access

CCI-SE-1 Stream Exclusion – Maintenance Practice

- Our stream exclusion maintenance practice with no buffer distance requirements (i.e. can be top of bank)
- Effectively the same as in past years; however, state cost share has been lowered to \$0.50 per linear foot of stream bank

Forestry Practices



Credit: Chesapeake Bay Program

FR-1 Afforestation of Crop, Hay and Pastureland

- Practice no longer subject to NRCS specs; instead, DOF Forester will develop and approve a Form 75 (old name) or Form 7.8 (new name) plan specifying tree species and density

FR-1 Afforestation of Crop, Hay and Pastureland

- State per acre rates have substantially increased:
 - \$100/acre for a 10 year lifespan
 - \$150/acre for a 15 year lifespan
 - Plus 75% cost-share on eligible components

FR-3 Woodland Buffer Filter Area

- Practice no longer subject to NRCS specs; instead, DOF Forester will develop and approve a Form 75 (old name) or Form 7.8 (new name) plan specifying tree species and density

FR-3 Woodland Buffer Filter Area

- State cost-share rate has substantially increased to 95% on eligible components
- Buffer payment rates have stayed the same as in FY20:
 - Conifers: \$100/acre for a 10 year lifespan and \$150/acre for a 15 year lifespan
 - Hardwoods: \$100/acre for a 10 year lifespan and \$250 for a 15 year lifespan

Nutrient Management Practices



Credit: ingenia.org

All NM Practices – Defines “Fully Implemented” for Glossary

1. The plan is written by a current, Virginia Certified Nutrient Management Planner
2. The producer agrees, by a signed document, that as the plan is written, the producer will be able to follow the crop rotation and all the nutrient recommendations on all fields signed up for this practice (at sign up or prior to payment). The producer signature on Plan cover sheet is sufficient to meet this requirement.
3. The “fully implemented nutrient management plan”:
 - a. Applies to only those practice fields eligible for payment or tax credit.
 - b. Those fields must meet the requirements of the practice specifications
 - c. Crops in the plan must accurately match actual crops in the field, and management practices in the plan must be current with field treatments.

NM-1A Nutrient Management Plan Writing and Revisions

- Updated statement to be signed by producer and planner as an option to verify NMP implementation
- B2iii clarifies that NMPs approved by DCR as part of a VPA or VPDES permit meet the NMP component of the practice

NM-1A Nutrient Management Plan Writing and Revisions

- (B2xi) In order to verify implementation of the NMP, an applicant must provide the District with:
 - A completed verification form (DCR199-244); **or**
 - A statement signed by the NM Planner and producer that nutrients were applied during this period according to a NMP.

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

- Nitrogen injection at sidedress added as a precision nitrogen application option for participant to receive cost-share on

NM-6 Manure Injection

- New practice to encourage manure injection on pasture and cropland, thereby reducing transport to waterways, etc., at NMP-recommended rates
- To be covered in detail by Amanda Pennington, PE later today

Miscellaneous Practice Updates



Credit: NRCS

SE-2 Shoreline Stabilization

- Moved from tax credit only practice in FY19 to cost-share and tax credit practice in FY20
- 75% of total eligible cost up to a practice cap of \$70,000 per landowner per year

SE-2 Shoreline Stabilization

- For shorelines bordering ag and forest lands only (i.e. no recreational, urban, residential sites)
- For tidally-influenced waters only
- One-time incentive payment not eligible for reapplication on same site

SE-2 Shoreline Stabilization

- Livestock must be excluded from the practice
- Subject to spot check by the District or SEAS throughout the practice lifespan of 15 years

SL-1 Long Term Vegetative Cover on Cropland

- (B1) Producers must be fully implementing a current NMP during the year of cover establishment to ensure proper nutrient applications for practice installation, but a NMP is optional for the following years of practice lifespan.
- (B9) Lime and fertilizer approved, but not required, for maintenance purposes

SL-1 Long Term Vegetative Cover on Cropland

- Cost-share rate stays at 75%, but one-time incentive payments increase:
 - \$25/acre for a 5 year contract
 - \$100/acre for a 10 year contract
 - \$150/acre for a 15 year contract
- Passed TAC on a one year trial basis; further improvements to be made this year

SL-8B Small Grain and Mixed Cover Crop for Nutrient Management and Residue Management

- (B12) Cover crop kill down range extended to March 15th through June 1st
- (B6) Seeding rates shall be adjusted based on germination rates.

SL-8H Harvestable Cover Crop

- (B13) Seeding rates shall be adjusted based on germination rates.

WP-4 Animal Waste Control Facilities

- WP-4 underwent major revisions
- To be covered in detail by Amanda Pennington, PE later today

WP-4B Dairy Loafing Lot Management System

- Renamed “Dairy Loafing Lot Management System” to clarify this is for dairies only (not beef).
- Participant cap raised to \$100K
- Practice lifespan changed to 15 years

WP-4C Composter Facilities

- (2iii) Adds poultry mortality freezers to list of eligible facilities
- (2iii) Clarifies that all work **shall be** based on least cost, technically feasible option
- Practice lifespan changed to 15 years

WQ-1 Grass Filter Strips

- (C1) Clarification that cost-share payment alone or combined with any other cost-share program will not exceed 75% of the total eligible cost, or a **maximum** of \$100/acre for 35' to 100' wide buffer strips.

WQ-12 Roof Runoff Management System

- (B1) Clarified that the existing structure shall be suitable and adequate for installation of properly designed gutters over the course of the lifespan of the practice

WQ-12 Roof Runoff Management System

- Not eligible:



Credit: kristineteague.com

CREP Update



United States Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency

- Three major changes going into FY2020:
 - Increase in rates
 - Increase in eligible counties/HUCs
 - Increase in total dollars available

= A TON OF OPPORTUNITY

CREP Update



United States Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency

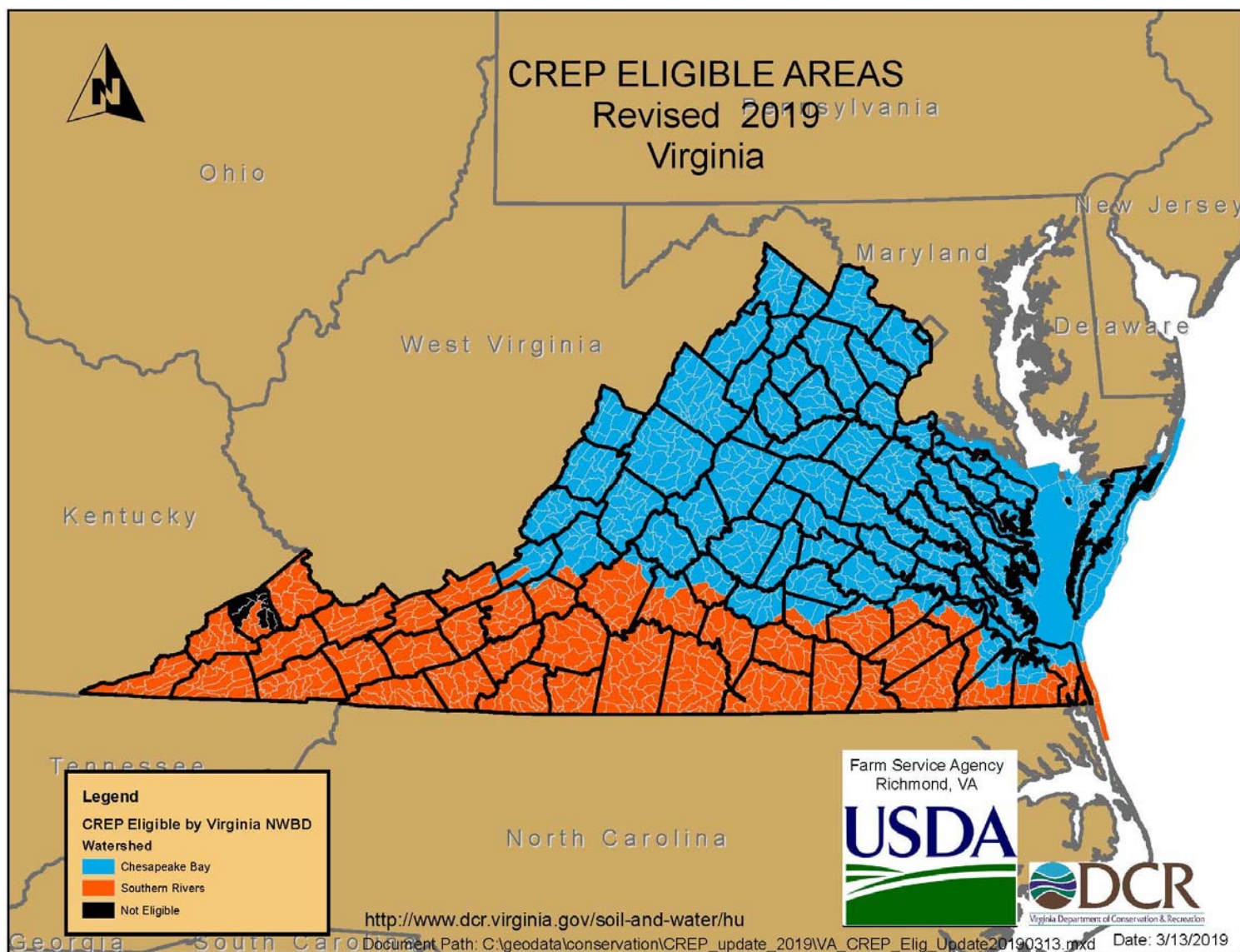
- Rates:
 - State cost-share rate increase from 25% to 35% for all applicable CREP practices
 - Total cost-share (federal plus state) thereby jumps to 85%

CREP Update



United States Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency

- Eligible Counties:
 - The Farm Service Agency, DCR and DEQ worked together to look at the eligibility status of previously ineligible HUCs
 - In the end, the Farm Service Agency agreed to expand CREP statewide with the exception of certain hydrologic units within Dickenson County (and thereby Lonesome Pine SWCD). The only eligible units in Dickenson are BS22, BS23, BS24, BS25, TC15, TC17.





CREP Update



United States Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency

- Total dollars: 2 million dollars
 - 1 million dollars CB
 - 1 million dollars OCB
- Great opportunity for conservation, especially for OCB Districts with lower VACS allocation



CREP Update



United States Department of Agriculture
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USDA Reopens Continuous CRP Signup

Contact: FPAC.BC.Press@usda.gov

Extensions also available to Many Expiring Contracts

WASHINGTON, May 15, 2019 – USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will accept applications beginning June 3, 2019, for certain practices under the continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup and will offer extensions for expiring CRP contracts. The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized CRP, one of the country's largest conservation programs.

CREP Update



United States Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency

- USDA is currently accepting sign-up
- Producers should be encouraged to start with FSA to make their offer
- Producers will work with FSA on eligibility, conservation planning with NRCS, etc.
- The earliest CREP sign-ups may be approved for state cost-share starting at July Board Meetings at the higher FY2020 rates

QUESTIONS ?

