

Name of Practice: TERRACE SYSTEMS  
DCR Specifications for No. SL-4

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

A. Description and Purpose

An earth embankment, channel, or a combination ridge and channel constructed across the slope.

To improve water quality by reducing slope and slope length to one that will slow the movement of sediment and nutrients from cropland.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. Cost share and tax credit are authorized for:
  - i. Terraces and the necessary leveling and filling to permit installation of an effective system.
  - ii. Removal of stonewalls or hedgerows if necessary to permit installation of an effective system.
  - iii. Materials and installation of underground pipe outlets and other mechanical outlets.
  - iv. Necessary vegetative protective outlets or waterways.
  - v. Converting the present system to a new system ONLY if the present system is not serving its intended conservation purpose. Cost-share may not be authorized to maintain an existing system or if the sole purpose is that of converting because of a change in cropping patterns or equipment used by the farmer.
2. Producers must be fully implementing a current nutrient management plan prepared and signed by a Virginia certified nutrient management planner. The plan must include all agricultural production acreage contained within the tract that this BMP will be implemented on and must be on file with the local SWCD. Cost-Share payments shall not be made until a current nutrient management plan is on file with the SWCD.
3. A protective outlet or waterway that is installed solely as an outlet for the terrace system and serves no other conservation purpose should be cost-shared as a component of this practice. A protective outlet or waterway which, by itself solves a conservation problem, but also serves as an outlet for a terrace system, should be cost-shared under practice WP-1 or WP-3.

4. Soil loss rates must be computed for all applications for use in establishing priority considerations.
5. In order to be eligible for cost-share or tax credit, nutrient management plans must be prepared by a certified planner who holds a current Nutrient Management Planner Certificate issued by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. Nutrient Management Plans must be written to comply with all requirements set forth in the Nutrient Management Training and Certification Regulations, (4 VAC 50-85-10 et seq.) and the criteria set forth in the Virginia Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria, revised July 2014.
6. This practice is subject to NRCS Standard 600 Terrace.
7. All practice components implemented must be maintained for a minimum of 10 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 SWCD 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 state cost-share payment, alone or when combined with any other cost-share program will not exceed 75 percent of the total eligible costs.
2. As set forth by Virginia Code § 58.1-339.3 and §58.1-439.5, Virginia law currently provides a tax credit for implementation of certain BMP practices. The current tax credit rate, which is subject to change in accordance with the Code of Virginia, is 25% of the total eligible cost not to exceed \$17,500.00.
3. If a cooperator receives cost-share, only the cooperator'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 SWCD 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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