

Name of Practice: ANIMAL WASTE CONTROL FACILITIES  
DCR Specifications for No. WP-4

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

A. Description and Purpose

A planned system designed to manage liquid and/or solid waste from areas where livestock and poultry are concentrated. This practice is designed to provide facilities for the storage and handling of livestock and poultry waste and the control of surface runoff water to permit the recycling of animal waste onto the land in a way that will abate pollution that would otherwise result from existing livestock or poultry operations.

To improve water quality by storing and spreading waste at the proper time, rate and location, and/or to control erosion and nutrient input caused by winter-feeding operations located adjacent to riparian areas.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. Eligibility: Cost-share and tax credit are limited to solving the pollution problems where the livestock or poultry operation can show they have either:
  - i. Access to land for application, and where a full farm plan approach to solving the water quality problem is being carried out.
  - ii. An approved market and a plan for manure storage, transport and sales which have been approved by the District.
  
2. Practice Development
  - i. Before cost-share or tax credit can be approved for construction of a winter-feeding facility with dry stacking capabilities all other means of reducing the environmental impacts of animal waste from the existing winter-feeding operation must be considered. Lack of space for relocation, economic inefficiency or other factors may be considered. All applications for animal waste control facilities, except poultry operations, must have a "Risk Assessment for Water Quality Impairment from heavy Use Areas/Animal Concentrated Areas" completed and must receive a minimum score of 120 in order to be eligible. Furthermore, all livestock must be excluded from all streams in the tract before cost share or tax credit is provided.
  - ii. Poultry Dry-Stack facilities should only be built after the completion of a Poultry Dry-Stack Needs Determination Worksheet. An analysis of the Needs Determination Worksheet must determine: That; all other means of reducing the environmental impact of the existing poultry operation have been explored and rejected due to economic inefficiency or lack of space for relocation.

- iii. The applicant is also required to sign a Dry Manure Storage Structure Agreement DCR-DSWC 199-86 (1/97) or similar SWCD agreement which addresses the minimum criteria prior to receiving any funds.
  - iv. Determination of the storage capacity of animal waste facilities shall be reviewed and approved by the DCR agricultural BMP engineer except for practices previously sized and engineered by NRCS.
3. Cost-share and tax credit is authorized:
- i. For animal waste storage facilities, such as dry stacking, dry stacking storage, aerobic or anaerobic lagoons, liquid manure tanks, holding ponds, collection basins, settling basins, and similar facilities as well as diversions, channels, waterways, designed filter strips, outlet structures piping, land shaping, and similar measures needed as part of a system on the farm to manage animal wastes.
    - (a) Permanently installed equipment needed as an integral part of the system.
    - (b) Fencing and vegetative cover (including mulching needed to protect the facility). Fencing can be included for livestock or poultry exclusion from live and intermittent streams in concentrated holding and winter-feeding areas.
    - (c) Leveling and filling to permit the installation of an effective system.
  - ii. Only if the storage and diversion facilities will contribute significantly to improving the soil or water quality by providing protected storage for on-site generated waste.
  - iii. For the waste storage facility as a part of the relocated livestock or poultry operation, if the original facility is contributing significantly to a water quality problem.
  - iv. Cost share can be authorized for individual components of animal waste systems, such as fencing, only if:
    - (a) NRCS determines that the component stands alone as a measure that will significantly improve water quality and
    - (b) Only where a no-discharge permit for a waste storage facility is not required. Tax credit can be authorized for individual components of animal waste systems, such as fencing, only if NRCS determines that the component stands alone as a measure that will significantly improve water quality.
  - v. For wastewater storage facilities as a stand-alone component with a minimum storage of 120 days.
  - vi. Cost-share funds only for six (6) months storage of existing need. All components of a waste storage system (regardless of funding source) must be designed to match the amount of manure storage capacity required.
  - vii. The construction of a fabricated liquid waste storage structure and associated components if it is the only acceptable alternative (based on site limitations, i.e., high water table, karst topography, etc.) for liquid waste management.

4. Cost share and tax credit are not authorized:
  - i. For measures primarily for the prevention or abatement of air pollution unless the measures also have soil and water conserving benefits.
  - ii. For:
    - (a) Portable pumps.
    - (b) Pumping equipment or other portable equipment for unloading facilities.
    - (c) Buildings or modifications of buildings.
    - (d) Spreading animal wastes on the land, including distribution system using irrigation pipelines.
  - iii. For the portion of the cost of animal waste structures installed under or attached to buildings that serve as part of the building or its foundation.
  - iv. For animal waste facilities that do not meet local or State regulations.
  - v. For installation primarily for the operator's convenience.
  - vi. Dairy, beef, poultry and swine confined feeding operations that are planned or under construction do not qualify for cost-share assistance for an Animal Waste Control Structure (WP-4) under the Virginia Agricultural BMP Cost-Share Program. A water quality problem must already exist for cost-share to be approved for a BMP. The number of livestock that would be used to design the animal waste control facility must be present before consideration for cost-share can be given.
  - vii. Enlargements cannot receive additional cost-share for WP-4 unless the original cost-shared WP-4 practice has been in place for 10 years per location.
  - viii. For waste storage facilities that will not store manure produced on the operation where the facility is to be located. End user facilities are not authorized.

5. All applicants must have:

- i. A nutrient management plan developed in accordance with requirements for nutrient management plan content and procedures as stipulated in the Virginia Nutrient Management Training and Certification Regulations for land application or a planned waste management system for any other uses of manure produced. The nutrient management plan should address all the acreage, which the participant farms where manure will be applied. The nutrient management plan should be implemented and maintained for the life of the practice. Determination Design of the storage capacity of animal waste facilities shall be reviewed and approved by the DCR agricultural BMP engineer (except for practices previously sized and engineered by NRCS) and should be coordinated with the nutrient management plan so that adequate storage capacity is installed for the specific cropping system.

- ii. A manure test for nutrient analysis (once during the first twelve months of operation of the facility).
6. All appropriate local and state permits must be obtained before cost-share payments are authorized.
7. 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.
8. This practice is subject to NRCS standards 313 Waste Storage Structure, 342 Critical Area Planting, 359 Waste Treatment Lagoon, 362 Diversion, 367 Roofs and Covers, 382 Fence, 412 Grassed Waterway, 558 Roof Run Off Management, 561 Heavy Use Protection, 575 Trails and Walkways, 620 Underground Outlet, 633 Waste Recycling and 634 Waste Transfer.
9. 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 if combined with any other cost-share payment, will not exceed 75% of the total eligible cost. The maximum state payment for this practice is not to exceed \$70,000 per landowner per year.
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.

Revised March, 2017

**Animal Waste Control Facility Needs Determination Worksheet  
for Poultry Dry-Stack Facilities**

1. What type of poultry operation do you have?
  
2. How long have you been in operation?
  
3. Have you expanded or enlarged your poultry operation? If so, when?
  
4. How often in the past 5 years have you been forced to store waste out-of-doors? How long was the litter stored outside? Was this due to unfavorable conditions beyond your control? Explain. Also locate the storage sites utilized.
  - a.
  
  - b.
  
  - c.

Explanation:

5. How many birds per flock do you normally produce? Their size, type, etc.
  
6. How many flocks per year do you normally produce?
  
7. How often do you clean out in a year's period? When and how is the litter used and/or stored? Also give the number of partial and total clean outs.
  
8. What use do you make of the litter produced?
  
9. Is any waste disposed of off your farm? If so, is it sold or bartered for commercial gain? Explain.
  
10. How much pasture, hayland and cropland are available to spread litter on in your operation?

Pasture acres \_\_\_\_\_ Hay acres \_\_\_\_\_ Cropland \_\_\_\_\_

Completed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date Title

## Dry Manure Storage Structure Agreement

1. The Waste Storage Structure or winter-feeding facility must be utilized in accordance with a Nutrient Management or Market plan approved by the District. The Plan identifies specific requirements related to waste storage, utilization and disposal. These requirements must be met in order to remain in program compliance.
2. A Nutrient Management or Market plan must be developed and approved prior to the approval of the cost-share payment.
3. Any changes in the farming operation that affect the ability to comply with the Nutrient Management or Market Plan will be reported to the District so that a new Plan may be developed or other actions taken to retain compliance with program guidelines.
4. No alterations to the structure are allowed without prior approval by the District. The structure must be built according to the approved final design and no change may be made to it.
5. The structure must be maintained in strict accordance with the NRCS maintenance guidelines.
6. The District imposes that (District check one of the following):
  - i. The structure is to be used for storage of manure only.
  - ii. The applicant must request prior district approval for storage of non-manure items.
  - iii. During times when the structure is not filled with manure, shavings or temporary housing of mobile farm equipment or composted poultry carcasses resulting from normal mortality is permitted. This is only if it does not affect compliance with the Nutrient Management or Market Plan.

At NO TIME will manure be stored outside the facility when storage space is available in the structure. Waste stored out-of-doors will be grounds for the refund of all cost-share funds.

7. Employees or agents of Federal, State and local conservation agencies will be allowed to spot-check the facility at any time during the minimum 10-year life span of the practice.

I \_\_\_\_\_ certify that I have read and understand the guidelines contained herein. I further understand that if I fail to comply with these guidelines, I will pay back all cost-share funds received by me for the waste storage structure.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Producer Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date