

Name of Practice: VOLUNTARY STRIP CROPPING 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, cultural 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 SWCD throughout the lifespan of the practice.

C. 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, 2016