Recommended revisions to the VACS BMP Manual for FY2024

Attached are the recommendations made by the AgBMP Technical Advisory Committee. The recommendations are organized by Subcommittee (Animal Waste, Cover Crop and Nutrient Management, Programmatic, and Stream Protection and Forestry).

MATRIX OF ADVANCED ANIMAL WASTE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022 (CY22) TAC					
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**TAC Recommendations**	**DCR Supports**	**FY2024/2025**
1A	WP-4	The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board directs the Animal Waste Subcommittee (Subcommittee) of the AgBMP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to review and examine the water quality impacts of livestock manure, specifically the differences between the impact of poultry litter and livestock manures. The Subcommittee shall review the existing WP-4 standards and specifications, in addition to the Animal Waste Control Facility Needs Determination Worksheet for Livestock Waste Storage Facilities (Worksheet) provided by the Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, to determine the most appropriate method to evaluate the impacts of the manure. The Subcommittee shall provide their recommendation, including the standard and specification and the method used to evaluate the impacts, to the full AgBMP TAC for review and approval; the Subcommittee shall also make a recommendation on whether the revised specification and standard should be implemented during FY2023. The action and recommendation taken by the AgBMP TAC shall be presented to the Board at their December meeting.	The TAC recommends poultry litter and livestock manures be evaluated using the same method under the WP-4 practice specification. A revised Risk Assessment Tool for use with the WP-4 is provided as an attachment. Proposed edits to the WP-4 VACS practice specification: *A. Description and Purpose* *This practice creates a planned system designed to manage liquid and/or solid waste from existing feeding facilities, hardened pads or other areas where livestock and poultry are concentrated and from which manure can be collected. This practice is designed to provide facilities for the storage and handling of livestock and poultry waste and the control of surface runoff 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.* *B. 2. ii. Before cost-share or tax credit can be approved, all applications for animal waste control facilities, including ~~except~~ poultry operations, must have a "WP-4 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 associated livestock must be excluded from all streams in the tract before cost-*	Yes	FY2024

MATRIX OF ADVANCED ANIMAL WASTE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022 (CY22) TAC					
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			share or tax credit is provided *~~iii.~~* ~~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.~~ *B. 4. Cost-share and tax credit are not authorized:* *i. For operations that do not currently have a way to collect manure (i.e., existing feeding facilities, hardened pads, etc.).* ***Optional Animal Waste Control Facility ~~Needs Determination Worksheet for Poultry Dry Stack Facilities~~ Data Collection Worksheet*** *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~~ waste stored outside? Was this due to unfavorable conditions beyond your control? Explain. Also locate the storage sites utilized.* *5. How many livestock per year or birds per flock do you normally ~~produce~~ raise? Their size, type, etc.* *6. How many flocks/herds per year do you normally ~~produce~~ raise?* *7. How often do you clean out or scrape in a year's*		

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			period? When and how is the ~~litter~~ waste used and/or stored? Also give the number of partial and total clean outs <u>for poultry</u>. *8. What use do you make of the ~~litter~~ waste 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~~ waste on in your operation?*		
4A		Include the following NRCS Practice Standards into one or more of VACS specifications: 360 Waste Storage Facility Closure, 521 Pond Sealing or Lining - Geomembrane or Geosynthetic Clay Liner, 520 Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Soil Treatment, and 522 Pond Sealing or Lining, Concrete. The 360 Practice is used to properly demolish an existing waste storage facility, typically liquid manure pits or lagoons. The three others are options to line an existing leaking manure pit/lagoon based on the best way to line or seal them depending on environmental and soil conditions.	The TAC agrees with this suggestion and has proposed edits to the list of referenced NRCS Standards as part of the WP-8 VACS practice specification: *B. 7. This practice is subject to NRCS Standards 313 Waste Storage Facility, 327 Conservation Cover, 342 Critical Area Planting, 350 Sediment Basin, 356 Dike, 359 Waste Treatment Lagoon, <u>360 Waste Facility Closure</u>, 362 Diversion, 382 Fencing, 393 Filter Strip, 412 Grassed Waterway, 472 Access Control, 516 Pipeline, 558 Roof Runoff Structure, 560 Access Road, 561 Heavy Use Area Protection, 574 Spring Development, 587 Structure for Water Control, 614 Watering Facility, 633 Waste Utilization, and 642 Water Well.*	Yes	FY2024

MATRIX OF DEFERRED ANIMAL WASTE RECOMMENDATIONS			
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**Reason for Deferring**
5A		Create CCI practices that provide incentives for the continued maintenance and use of animal waste practices. *CCI-WP-4 and CCI-WP-4C created in 2021; TAC planned to continue discussion for loafing lot management systems in CY22*	This suggestion will be prioritized during the next TAC cycle by the Subcommittee.

MATRIX OF TABLED ANIMAL WASTE RECOMMENDATIONS			
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**Reason for Tabling**
2A	WP-4FP	Make the WP-4FP (feeding pad) only have to score a 100 on the risk assessment instead of 120, the same qualifying number as a barn. A feeding pad is a great management tool for producers who have an NMP/Manure Management plan that may not need and/or qualify for a barn. This would make the WP-4FP more accessible for producers.	Suggestion was withdrawn by the District that submitted it.
3A		Recommend adding 560-Access Road to the NRCS standards list for the WP-4 suite of practices or certain WP-4 practices as determined by the Ag Waste Subcommittee.	The Subcommittee feels this is a training issue, as this can be addressed under the SL-11B tax credit practice. Additionally, DEQ is able to provide loan funding to a producer through the AgBMP Loan Program.

WP-4 Risk Assessment for Water Quality Impairment from Animal Concentrated Areas

Client's Name: _____ Farm #: _____ Tract #: _____

Livestock Type: _____ No: _____ Avg. Wt.: _____

Is the cooperator currently feeding hay or other feedstuffs from a fixed hardened location that allows for manure collection? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, then describe where and how they are feeding:

If the cooperator is not feeding hay or other supplements, on a hardened location that allows for manure collection, then do not complete this form.

For those who are feeding, are alternative manure storage locations available? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Could relocation of the manure storage area reduce the risk to the water resources? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Describe the alternatives discussed with the landowner:

Describe the selected alternative:

Note: The Landowner should be informed that if the selected alternative includes manure or wastewater handling, storage, or treatment practices, a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) must be developed and implemented for the farm prior to construction of the storage facility.

Livestock Manure and Nutrient Loading Estimator

1. Manure Estimator - Input site specific data into the table below:

Select Livestock Type from the list below in Table 1:	INPUTS								OUTPUT - Waste deposited annually in concentrated area		
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H			
	Number of animals fed	Average animal weight (lbs)	Days in concen-trated area (per year)	Portion of manure dropped in concen-trated area (%)	Size of current manure storage area (ac)	Manure production rate (lbs/day per 1,000 lbs of live weight)	Total N per ton of manure	Total P_2O_5 per ton of manure	Manure (tons/ac/ yr)	Total N (lbs/ac/ yr)	Total P_2O_5 (lbs/ac/ yr)
7	100	5	365	100%	0.5	16	65	52	**3**	**192**	**155**

2. Guidance on inputs:

Column A, B, C, D, E, are site specific and may be adjusted according to site conditions and professional judgement.

Column A: Use the number of animals on site within the Column C Days in concentrated area. For poultry production round flocks up to whole numbers.

Column D: If water is available in concentrated/feeding area, assume 60-70% drops in the area (adjust to site conditions). If water is only available in pasture outside concentrated/feeding area, assume 40-50% drops in the area (adjust to site conditions). For confined feeding use 100% confinement.

Columns F through H (see Table 1 below) are auto-filled with appropriate values when livestock type is selected.

TABLE 1

Livestock Type	Weight	Manure lbs./day/1,000lbs.	N/ton of manure	P_2O_5/ton of manure
1: Beef Finishing	400 - 1,000	65	11	3.1
2: Beef Cow/calf	900 - 1,400	104	7	3.5
3: Non Lact. Dairy	150 - 1,500	56	10	4
4: Lactating Dairy	1100 -1,500	119	13	5.4
5: Horse	1000-1,500	52	9.6	4.2
6: Goats/Sheep	30-200	40	22.5	8
7: Chicken Broiler	3-8	16	65	52
8: Chicken Layer	7	13	48	61
9: Turkey	30	41	62	50
10:Turkey Breeder	20	6	59	61

Note: Calculation of manure weight, N, and P are associated with livestock concentrated/feeding locations. Dairy, beef, horse and sheep values are based on NRCS Agricultural Waste Management Field Handbook (AWMFH). Poultry values are based on the DCRs Virginia Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria, Revised 2014.

3. Guidance on interpreting output:

TABLE 2

Loading Rate (lbs/ac/yr) from Estimator above		Level of Concern	Water resources at risk	Loading Points
N	P2O5			
Less than 200	Less than 80	Minor	No	0
201 to300	81-120	Moderate	Possibly	15
301 to 800	121-310	Major	Possibly	40
801 to 1000	311-390	Excessive	Possibly	80
1,001 +	390 +	Extreme	Possibly	100

	Comments	**Loading Points**
Loading Points:	From Table 2	**100**

Site Information - Receiving water feature and buffer considerations: (see exhibit 1 to determine if points are to be given in Section A below for overland flow to a vulnerable water feature *or* Section B below for a concentrated flow to a vulnerable water feature)

(A1) Overland Flow - Proximity to Vulnerable Water Feature:

Comments

< 100 Feet: 40 points
100- 199 Feet: 25 points
200-300 Feet: 15 points
>300 Feet: 0 points

Distance from edge of concentrated/ feeding area to edge of a water feature which includes open sinkholes, springs, streams (perennial or intermittent), wetlands and ponds.

(A2) Buffer width adjacent to the selected water feature:

< 35 Feet: 20 points
35 -100 Feet: 10 points
>100 Feet: 0 points

A buffer is a vegetative area which effectively filters overland flow to the adjoining water feature (0-34' is not an effective buffer). Source: P Index and FOTG.

Sum of A1 and A2: **0**

or

(B) Concentrated Flow - Does the runnoff from the ACA enter a transport feature within 300 feet of the edge of the ACA?

Yes 60 points
No 0 points

Transport Feature - A swale, grassed waterway, gully, or similar feature where concentrated water flow occurs. (This transport feature must flow into the vulnerable water feature in the above question)

The greater of A *or* B (maximum 60 points can be earned here): **0**

Is the Vulnerable Water feature or Receiving Water Feature above classified as high value water?

High Value Water - A stream, lake, or estuary designated within a TMDL watershed based on the 303d Impaired Waters List, endangered species, and/or designated trout waters.	Yes =	20 points	
	No =	0 points	

Site Information:

Scoring Boxes

Comments

Environmental Sensitivity Index:

High	15 points	From DCRs *Virginia Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria, Revised 7/2014,* Table 1-4. Includes soils with leaching potential, shallow soils and poor drainage. *(Use soil series at the existing HUA/ACA.)*
Medium	10 points	
Low	0 points	

Slope:

0-2 %	0 points	General slope of the HUA/ACA from the edge of feeding area to the vulnerable water feature.
2-6%	5 points	
6-15%	15 points	
15-25%	25 points	

Total Score: 100

Note: If total is 120 or greater, there is a significant risk of water resource impairment. Follow the planning process to address this concern. Consider both structural and non-structural alternatives.

Definitions:

Buffer - A permanently vegetated area with a minimum width of 35 feet.

High Value Water - A stream, lake, or estuary designated within a TMDL watershed based on the 303d Impaired Waters List, endangered species, and/or designated trout waters.

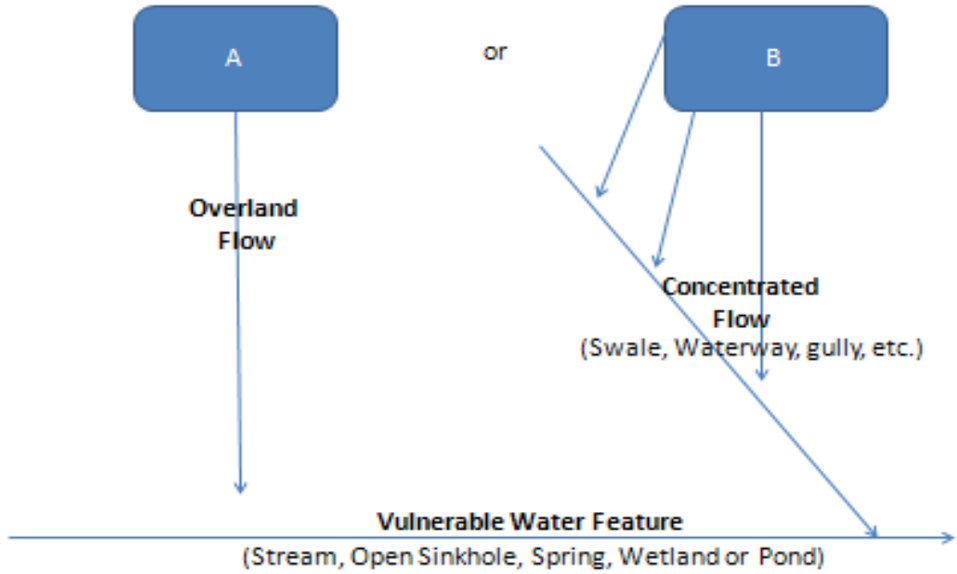
Karst features - Includes sinkholes, limestone rock outcrops, and fractured limestone that are direct conduits to ground water.

Vulnerable Water Feature - An open sinkhole, stream (perennial or intermittent), spring, wetland, or pond that is receiving overland flow.

Transport Feature - A swale, grassed waterway, gully, or similar feature where concentrated water flow occurs.

HUA/ACA - Areas which have a high concentration of livestock, large amounts of waste and the inability to sustain vegetation.

Exhibit 1



MATRIX OF ADVANCED COVER CROP NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022 (CY22) TAC					
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**TAC Recommendations**	**DCR Supports**	**FY2024/ 2025**
3C		The Board directs the Cover Crop and Nutrient Management Subcommittee of the AgBMP Technical Advisory Committee to examine the viability of developing a specification that provides cost-share payment for producers that only harvest the grain off the field, leaving all of the remaining residue.	Adjust the payment rates for the SL-8H to reflect an incentive for only harvesting the grain and leaving all remaining residue in the field: *B. 15. For cover crop that is harvested for seed or grain ONLY, leaving all remaining straw and residue on the field, a higher incentive rate is available. The seed or grain may be harvested after March 14, all remaining cover crop residue (INCLUDING STRAW) must be left on the field for conservation purposes. (Straw cannot be cut and baled).* *C. 1. For participants who are not receiving payment for cover crops from another source on the same acreage, a state cost-share payment rate of **$20 per acre is available for cover crop that is harvested for seed/grain and straw, remaining residue may be tilled under**. Districts should not issue cost-share funds if a good stand and good growth of winter cover is not obtained before December 15 and maintained through March 14, with the exception of the Coastal Plain and the cities of Chesapeake and Virginia Beach that have ~~late~~ November planting dates.* *2. For participants who are not receiving payment for cover crops from another source on the same acreage, a state cost-share payment rate of **$30 per acre is available for cover crop that is harvested for seed/grain ONLY**, all remaining residue must remain on the field (straw cannot be baled). Districts should not issue cost-share funds if a good stand and good growth of winter cover is not obtained before December 15 and maintained through March 14, with the exception of the cities of Chesapeake and Virginia Beach that have November planting dates.*	Yes	FY2024
5C	NM-7	Consider increasing the payment rate for the NM-7 practice. Currently there is only a $5/acre difference in the payment rate for this practice and the SL-8H practice. This practice has the potential to provide valuable nutrient reductions by utilizing the fall soil nitrate test to determine the need for manure application.	Increase the payment rate for the NM-7 to reflect the increased time required of producers to implement the necessary management actions as well as the costs associated with the additional required testing: *C. 1. For participants who are not receiving payment for cover crops from another source on the same acreage, a state cost share payment rate of **$35** ~~**$25**~~ per acre; is available.*	Yes	FY2024

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Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**TAC Recommendations**	**DCR Supports**	**FY2024/ 2025**
			Participants may receive either a cost-share payment or a tax credit for implementation of this practice but not both on the same acre.		
6C	SL-8	In the SL-8 Specification Policies and Specifications B-5 it makes reference to "seeding certification". What does this mean? Is it referring to certification of the 60% cover or certification of the seed being planted? Why do other cover crop specifications not include this same language? If "seeding certification" is referring to certifying cover, then we suggest making all the specifications match.	Revise language in the SL-8 and SL-8A specifications for clarification: SL-8: *B. 5. The ~~seed must be planted and~~ planting must be certified no later than November 30.* SL-8A: *B. 7. The ~~seeding must be planted and~~ planting must be certified within 45 days after crop harvest or destruction of the crop due to natural disaster or unforeseen circumstances.*	Yes	FY2024
10C	VNM-5N	VNM5-N: Review B.3. Multiple aspects of this section should be evaluated. – N testing may be soil samples, tissue samples, using photo sensing equipment (Green Seeker) to develop and implement N applications.	Update language in the VNM-5N for consistency with applicable language in the NM-5N: *B. 3. i. Soil pre-sidedress nitrate test (PSNT): Plant tissue samples or petiole samples must be submitted at the correct growth stage and handled in accordance with laboratory guidelines to ensure sample viability and usability. The results of these samples may be used by the participant to support this practice.*	Yes	FY2024
11C		Include STBA (Soil Test Biological Activity) testing costs in a nutrient management spec (probably NM-5N). Can the rates be broken into a rate per test? This would enable the rates to be folded directly into a practice.	The Subcommittee created a small sub-group to discuss a potential pilot project. However, a pilot and specification were developed outside of the TAC process and will be implemented in three Districts over the next year and a half. The results of the pilot will be shared with the Subcommittee upon completion of the pilot to determine if the pilot should be continued as part of the VACS Program.	Yes	FY2024
12C	SL-8M	Update the SL-8M section B.5 to remove the March 1 date for manure application.	Remove the "March 1" date and insert "prior to planting": *B. 5. No nutrients from any source are allowed between the harvesting of the previous crop and prior to planting ~~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*	Yes	FY2024

MATRIX OF ADVANCED COVER CROP NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022 (CY22) TAC					
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**TAC Recommendations**	**DCR Supports**	**FY2024/ 2025**
17C	NM-3C	Consider if there is a need for a sorghum version of NM-3C and, if so, develop a new specification.	Incorporate Grain Sorghum into the NM-3C due to similar management of the two crops (sections with proposed changes only): *Name of Practice: SIDEDRESS APPLICATION OF NITROGEN ON CORN AT THE 6-LEAF STAGE OR AT LEAST 15" IN HEIGHT AND/OR GRAIN SORGHUM AT THE 5-LEAF STAGE OR AT LEAST 12" IN HEIGHT* *DCR Specification for No. NM-3C* *This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Sidedress Application of Nitrogen on Corn and/or Grain Sorghum practice which are applicable to all contracts entered into with respect to that practice.* *A. Description and Purpose* *This practice will encourage the sidedress application of nitrogen (organic OR inorganic) on corn and/or grain sorghum. For fields receiving only nitrogen fertilizer, sidedress applications will be based upon soil sample results and the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP). All secondary or sidedress applications will be applied at a growth stage when the plant is entering the highest demand for nitrogen (corn at 15" to 24" tall; grain sorghum at 12" to 18" tall).* *B. Policies and Specifications* *1. Eligibility:* *iii. The total number of corn and/or grain sorghum acres specified by the nutrient management plan to be sidedressed will determine the maximum acres to qualify.* *5. Application of any sidedress nitrogen must be made after the corn is at*	Yes	FY2024

MATRIX OF ADVANCED COVER CROP NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022 (CY22) TAC					
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**TAC Recommendations**	**DCR Supports**	**FY2024/ 2025**
			the 6-leaf stage or at least 15 inches in height and/or grain sorghum is at the 5-leaf stage or at least 12 inches in height. *6. Total nitrogen to be applied to the ~~cornfield~~ corn and/or grain sorghum field must be consistent with the nutrient management plan or determined by using a PSNT (as applicable for corn) consistent with procedures contained in the Nutrient Management Training and Certification Regulations (4VAC50-85 et. Seq).* *C. Rate(s)* *1. For participants who are not receiving payment for a sidedress application of nutrients to corn and/or grain sorghum from any other source on the same acreage, a state cost share payment rate of 75% of the application charge, up to a maximum amount of $6.00 per acre for the sidedress application, shall be paid based upon the contracted sidedress application acreage. Producers applying their own sidedress applications will receive $6.00 per acre applied.*		
24C		Address required lbs per N application to be considered a split application for nutrient management.	Add language to nitrogen application practices to clarify that a minimum of 20 pounds per acre must be applied to be considered an application for the management of nitrogen: NM-3C: *B. 6. A minimum of 20 lbs per acre must be applied to be considered a sidedress application for the management of nitrogen.* NM-4: *B. 2. ii. A minimum of 20 lbs per acre must be applied to be considered a split application for the management of nitrogen.*	Yes	FY2024

MATRIX OF ADVANCED COVER CROP NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022 (CY22) TAC					
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**TAC Recommendations**	**DCR Supports**	**FY2024/ 2025**
			NM-5N: *B. 8. A minimum of 20 lbs per acre must be applied to be considered a split or sidedress application for the management of nitrogen.* VNM-5N: *B. 8. A minimum of 20 lbs per acre must be applied to be considered a split or sidedress application for the management of nitrogen.*		

MATRIX OF DEFERRED COVER CROP NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS			
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**Reason for Deferring**
14C		NRCS now pays for variable rate lime, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium through their Conservation Stewardship Program "Level C". Reconsider the inclusion of variable rate lime and potash into the VACS Program.	The Subcommittee deferred this year; more time is needed for discussion and possible next steps for incorporating into the VACS program.
16C	SL-15A	Add the following to SL-15A Description and Purpose: "To encourage utilization of this practice by producers with cotton and peanuts in their rotation, a one-time exception to maintaining 60% residue for five consecutive years will be granted to those willing to add an extra year to the lifespan of this practice". Under B.2., add, "For fields planted in peanuts, a small grain or cover crops must be planted within 30 days of digging. Cotton fields may also need to be planted in a small grain or cover crops to maintain biomass". Under B.6., add, "For fields that have been rutted during harvest, small grains or cover crop must be planted within 30 days to maintain compliance with this specification. It is recommended that cover crops planted after November 1st be drilled to ensure an adequate stand".	The Subcommittee deferred this year; more time is needed for discussion and possible next steps for incorporating into the VACS program. There also needs to be a review of Bay Model credit implications.
19C		Add a practice to re-enroll or capture existing grassland that was converted from row crop (may help with WIP).	The Subcommittee will develop a CCI practice for the SL-1 over the next TAC cycle(s).

MATRIX OF TABLED COVER CROP NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS			
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**Reason for Tabling**
1C		The Board directs the Department to request the Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-share Program Technical Advisory Committee Cover Crop and Nutrient Management Subcommittee examine and discuss whether a range of cost-share payment rates would be more appropriate than a flat payment rate for the cover crop practices. *(This suggestion is in reference to a range of rates based on geographic area)*	It would be incredibly difficult to administer cost-share rates that vary by geographic regions, physiographic regions or subsets. The difficulty would be further exacerbated for Districts that may be split by geographic/physiographic regions. A consistent payment rate across the state is more efficient to administer for Districts and provides a known, consistent payment rate for producers (particularly those that may farm in multiple Districts).
2C		The Board directs the Cover Crop and Nutrient Management Subcommittee of the AgBMP Technical Advisory Committee to examine revising the cover crop practice payments from a flat per-acre rate to a percentage-of-cost payment.	Due to the volume of cover crop contracts, the Subcommittee did not think that utilizing a percentage-of-cost payment method is a viable option. The collection of multiple invoices, processing invoices, comparison to average cost lists, file maintenance, and other administrative tasks would be time consuming and difficult to process and maintain. Average cost lists vary from District to District and these variances would cause uncertainty for producers signing up in multiple districts as the payments rates may vary.
7C	NM-3C	Remove the requirement that applicants sign up prior to April 1 in the NM-3C specification.	The Subcommittee recognized removing the sign-up deadline of April 1 is not possible. There would be insufficient time for Districts to accept the application and approve it at a District board meeting. District Board meeting schedules vary within the month and the April 1 date ensures all Districts have time to process the applications and present them to their respective Boards.
8C		Require soil health practices in order to maintain cover crop eligibility. One-time signup of 3 years for the same acreage while under the same ownership. After the initial 3 years the producer must also use and report conservation/no-till planting practices.	Due to significant problems previously experienced with the administration of multi-year contracts and multi-year financial obligations, the recommendation was tabled by the Subcommittee.
9C		Create a CCI-SL-8 practice for cover crop fields that have been enrolled for 8 or more years. A higher initial payment will incentivize adoption of the BMP and changes to a lesser payment once the practice has been adopted into the farm management.	The Subcommittee had concerns that the level of cover crop implementation may drop off once the cost-share was reduced to the lower payment structure. Additionally, the AgBMP Tracking Module is not currently designed to support this type of contract.
13C	SL-1	Consider changing SL-1 to a flat rate per acre payment rather than 75% cost-share plus incentive.	The Subcommittee tabled the recommendation in recognition of the tremendous variability in site specific needs that may be encountered across the state.

MATRIX OF TABLED COVER CROP NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS			
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**Reason for Tabling**
		We strongly suggest keeping the incentive payment to incentivize participants to enroll for a longer lifespan. It is practical to pay for this practice on a per acre basis, like cover crop. The change would add efficiency to the payment calculations of a practice that is otherwise reported to the Bay Model on a per acre basis regardless of species planted, nutrients applied, or tillage used.	
18C	WP-3	Add a buffer payment to the WP-3 Sod Waterway.	After discussion, the Subcommittee tabled the recommendation for a buffer payment on sod waterways.
20C		We would like the cover crop and nutrient management subcommittee to look at incentivizing the use of N-Producing Microbe In Corn. https://www.agweb.com/article/farmer-quits-synthetic-nitrogen-goes-n-producing-microbe-corn	Based on discussions held by the Subcommittee, it was determined that Virginia Cooperative Extension has not seen substantiative enough results with their efforts at this time for a new VACS practice to be created.
21C		Add a practice to reduce tillage 40-60%.	Bay Model credit is received for Virginia through tillage surveys. The most credit is received for minimum residue rates of 60%. The Subcommittee did have further discussions regarding how difficult reducing tillage would be to incorporate across the VACS Program.
22C		Add a VACS practice that pays farmers willing to spread litter. A $10/acre payment should go to the farmer spreading the litter, not necessarily the farmer receiving the litter. The maximum rate of application would be 2 tons/acre. The farmers receiving the litter can verify that the litter was applied.	There is an existing Poultry Litter transport program that provides a financial incentive to producers that transport litter out of certain counties. The rates for the producers are presented to the Board by the Department, rather than a suggestion from the AgBMP TAC.

MATRIX OF ADVANCED PROGRAMMATIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022 (CY22) TAC					
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**TAC Recommendations**	**DCR Supports**	**FY2024/2025**
1P		The Board directs the AgBMP Technical Advisory Committee to review the methodology associated with the participant cap to determine if there should be additional considerations taken into account such as a sliding scale for acreage under production, the number of counties or Districts a producer is operating in, and any other considerations that the TAC may determine are worthwhile to examine. The increase in the participant cap to $300,000 shall be reduced to $200,000 for FY2024 if the AgBMP TAC does not provide a new recommendation and the Board takes no further action extending the increase in the participant cap through FY2024.	Maintain the participant cap at $300,000 for PY24 to allow time for it to be implemented and evaluated. The TAC also recommended revisiting the cap methodology for PY25. The use of a sliding scale method was not supported by the TAC.	Yes	FY2024
3P		Request the addition of karst in the Glossary. Consider using the "What is Karst" Section of the Living on Karst publication located on the DCR Natural Heritage website.	Update existing BMP specifications that reference "karst areas" to consistently use "karst features". This reference will be amended in numerous specifications. A definition of karst will be added to the Glossary of the VACS Manual: *Karst: A landscape occurring in areas with limestone or other soluble bedrock, characterized by features such as sinkholes, springs, sinking streams, and caves.*	Yes	FY2024
5P		The guidelines section of the BMP manual says that payment is based on the estimated or actual cost, whichever is less. The SL-6 suite of practices say approved or actual and the WP-4 practices say eligible or actual. This can lead to misunderstandings. Too lenient of a payment procedure can cause abuse of the program. Unnecessarily strict, complex procedures can create a deterrent to participation, especially when combined with a low cost list. The wording should be clarified to better reflect the intention of the program. Alternatively, DCR could issue a guidance document prior to the	Update the VACS Manual with consistent language related to cost-share payments. The language will be revised to say, "payment is based on approved estimated or eligible actual cost, whichever is less". This reference will be amended in numerous specifications.	Yes	FY2024

MATRIX OF ADVANCED PROGRAMMATIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022 (CY22) TAC					
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**TAC Recommendations**	**DCR Supports**	**FY2024/2025**
		start of PY23 clarifying how payments should be calculated and how much flexibility SWCDs have.			
6P		Recommend allowing all DCR practices to be variance eligible based on the support of the local SWCD board and proper justification.	The TAC recommended the creation of a process to request a "bundle variance" in situations where a participant qualifies for a variance under the existing policy and wishes to install additional practices. This will allow the additional practices to be included in the variance request as well. In the Guidelines section of the BMP Manual, the following language will be added under the *Procedures to request a variance to exceed cost-share cap*: *<u>If the applicant qualifies for a Variance request and wishes to also apply for non-Variance-eligible practice(s) in the same Program Year (e.g., a Variance is being requested for a WP-4 and the participant also wants to apply for cover crop cost share), the District may request a "Bundle Variance". A Bundle Variance request includes one or more Variance-eligible practices as well as non-Variance-eligible practice(s). All practices for consideration under a Bundle Variance must be included in a single request, with all required Variance documentation provided for each practice as applicable. The Variance Committee may consider each practice separately for approval of the Variance request.</u>*	Yes	FY2024
4C		A new practice for split application of nitrogen on grasses (hay and forages). *Currently allowed under NM-5N; discussion by Cover Crop/Nutrient Management Subcommittee found the underlying issue is that only "highly managed hayland" is eligible, which requires 3 cuttings unless under drought conditions. The CC/NM SC requests Programmatic SC review the Glossary definition of*	Revise definition of "highly managed hayland" in the VACS Manual: *Highly Managed Hayland: A production system in which cropland dedicated to hay production is not grazed <u>and is managed in accordance with a Nutrient Management Plan</u>. If grass-based, the participant<u>s</u> must produce at least ~~three~~ <u>two</u>*	Yes	FY2024

MATRIX OF ADVANCED PROGRAMMATIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022 (CY22) TAC					
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**TAC Recommendations**	**DCR Supports**	**FY2024/2025**
		"highly managed hayland" and further explain "designated drought condition".	*cuttings a year of hay and may have a nitrogen application for each cutting. ~~However, in a designated drought condition, the third cutting and nitrogen application would not be required.~~ If legume based (e.g., alfalfa), the participant~~s~~ ~~are~~ <u>is</u> exempt from the nitrogen application and ~~are~~ <u>is</u> eligible for phosphorus management under NM-5P. ~~Land (pasture) that is primarily grazed is not to be considered highly managed hayland.~~*		

MATRIX OF TABLED PROGRAMMATIC RECOMMENDATIONS			
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**Reason for Tabling**
2P		Currently, VACS rules preclude providing cost-share funding until a "resource concern" exists, which means a poultry flock or other livestock must have been placed on site prior to a producer receiving cost-share funding. It would be more efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally protective if producers were allowed to apply for and secure cost-share in conjunction with the construction of facilities or structures that are needed for the operation. This would allow the structures and facilities to be ready for use when the livestock or poultry arrive onsite, when the resource concern truly begins.	The Subcommittee had concerns about attempting to expand the program focus from addressing existing water quality issues to addressing new or expanding operations. There was also concern about assuming that water quality concerns will occur at permitted operations (poultry).
4P		Establish a policy to ensure livestock operations are observing proper stocking rates before they are allowed to apply for costly infrastructure practices (e.g., do not pay for manure storage/management infrastructure if the existing resource concerns can be solved by a grazing plan and proper stocking rates).	The Subcommittee discussed the role of stocking rates and management practices in addressing resource concerns. The Subcommittee determined that stocking rates should be addressed on a case-by-case basis by technical staff in the planning and design process but should not be an eligibility requirement. The Subcommittee also raised concerns about how proper stocking rates would be determined and applied consistently.
7P		Consider aquaculture practice for oysters.	The Subcommittee had several concerns related to this suggestion. Concerns included whether participants for oyster aquaculture BMPs could meet VACS eligibility requirements, lack of expertise within the Department, and the potential overlap with existing grant programs within other agencies such as VDACS.
15C		Provide clear and consistent Class A biosolids changes across the board in all impacted specifications. Simply state if it is allowable or not, with stipulations as necessary, and consistent language.	The Subcommittee's review of biosolids references in the VACS Manual did not find inconsistencies or need for additional clarification.

MATRIX OF ADVANCED STREAM PROTECTION FORESTRY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022 (CY22) TAC					
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**TAC Recommendations**	**DCR Supports**	**FY2024/2025**
1S	CCI-FRB-1 CCI-HRB-1	Consider modifying the language in the CCI-FRB-1 and CCI-HRB-1 specifications to be consistent with the current SL-6W specification with regards to the buffers and the floodplain. Remove the statement about not exceeding 100 feet from the CCI specifications to be consistent with the SL-6W.	Delete "up to one third of the floodplain" from the CCI-FRB-1 and CCI-HRB-1 specifications to be more consistent with language in the FR-3 specification. It is intended that the CCI-FRB-1 be a continuation of FR-3. CCI-FRB-1: *B. 8. Strip Width - Minimum width of the wooded buffer will be the same as the NRCS Technical Guide as follows: A minimum width of 35 feet from the edge of the stream bank, ~~or up to one third of the flood plain,~~ not to exceed 100 feet is required.* CCI-HRB-1: *B. 5. Herbaceous riparian buffers planned for sediment and related pollutant control must be a minimum of 35 feet wide from the edge of the stream bank, ~~or up to one-third of the flood plain~~ not to exceed 100 feet.*	Yes	FY2024
3S	SL-7	The name of the SL-7 practice is "Extension of Watering System" which implies that at least one trough is a required component of the practice. There are many cases where the least cost, technically feasible way to address grazing management issues would be to make better use of the existing watering system, rather than installing additional troughs. It is also LCTF with a concurrently planned CREP and SL-7 to strategically locate the trough in a cross fence in order to serve two paddocks. Recommend changing the name of the practice to Expansion of Grazing System to clarify that fence-only practices are eligible if that is the LCTF method of addressing the resource concern.	Change the title of this practice to "Extension of Watering and Grazing Management Systems": *Name of Practice: EXTENSION OF WATERING <u>AND GRAZING MANAGEMENT</u> SYSTEMS* *DCR Specifications for No. SL-7*	Yes	FY2024

MATRIX OF ADVANCED STREAM PROTECTION FORESTRY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022 (CY22) TAC					
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**TAC Recommendations**	**DCR Supports**	**FY2024/2025**
7S	SL-6A	Consider moving SL-6A Small Acreage Grazing System from Tax Credit Only BMP to VACS BMP. The practice requires full implementation of a Nutrient Management Plan and development of a grazing plan. Nutrient Management Plans receive credit in the Bay Model.	Rather than revising this specification to a tax-credit only practice, the TAC recommends removing this specification from the Manual entirely because the WP-4LL cost-share practice can be used to accomplish its intent. ~~*Name of Practice: SMALL ACREAGE GRAZING SYSTEM*~~ ~~*DCR Specifications for No. SL-6A*~~ ~~*This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Small Acreage Grazing Systems best management practice which are applicable to all contracts entered into with respect to that practice.*~~ ~~*A. Description and Purpose*~~ ~~*This practice reduces soil erosion in pastures and prevent those areas exposed to heavy livestock traffic from experiencing excessive manure and soil losses due to the destruction of ground cover and eliminate direct access to or a direct runoff input to live streams where there is a defined water quality problem.*~~ ~~*Small acreage grazing systems frequently require the use of a heavy use area to remove livestock from pastures in wet conditions or when the pastures need to rest and recover. These sacrifice area paddocks quickly become denuded of vegetation and may harbor undesirable plants. Conditions in these paddocks are often unfavorable to livestock as well as the surrounding environment due to the build-up of manure in the paddock and the erosion that may take place on denuded soil.*~~	Yes	FY2024

MATRIX OF ADVANCED STREAM PROTECTION FORESTRY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022 (CY22) TAC					
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**TAC Recommendations**	**DCR Supports**	**FY2024/2025**
			~~*The intent of this practice is to prevent manure and sediment runoff from a heavy use area and pastures from entering watercourses and to capture a portion of the manure as a resource for other uses, such as fertilizer. This is accomplished by dividing the pasture into grazing paddocks. Livestock is rotated from paddock to paddock as is necessary to maintain a permanent vegetative cover. One lot is stabilized and designated as a heavy use area for use in periods of wet weather and when the grass in the grazing paddocks needs to rest in order to re-grow to the appropriate grazing height.*~~ ~~*B. Policies and Specifications*~~ ~~*1. Tax credit is authorized to protect surface water, supply water troughs and stabilize a heavy use area*~~ ~~*i. Tax Credit will not be authorized for any operation where the stocking rate exceeds two (2) animal units (1,000 lb. equivalent) per acre on the existing pastures.*~~ ~~*ii. This Best Management Practice (BMP) cannot compensate for over stocking. A stocking rate of no greater than two (2) animal units (1,000 lb. equivalent) per acre must be maintained throughout the life span of the practice.*~~ ~~*2. A Grazing Management Plan, practice design, and Operation and Maintenance (O & M) Plan are to be developed with consultation from a VCE Agent specializing in the alternative livestock (if available) and NRCS and/or the District.*~~		

MATRIX OF ADVANCED STREAM PROTECTION FORESTRY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022 (CY22) TAC					
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**TAC Recommendations**	**DCR Supports**	**FY2024/2025**
			~~*3. A minimum of three grassed grazing paddocks is required.*~~ ~~*4. A heavy use area is required.*~~ ~~*i. Manure, hay, bedding, and other organic materials must be removed from the sacrifice area at intervals outlined in the Operation and Maintenance Plan. The sacrifice area must be maintained in a sanitary condition that does not allow for the accumulation of manure or the creation of mud.*~~ ~~*ii. The sacrifice area should be sized to allow 600 to 1,000 square feet per animal unit (1,000 lb. equivalent). Consideration should be given to the age, sex, breed, and behavioral characteristics of the animals when determining the final size and number of sacrifice areas needed. The heavy use area shall be sloped not to exceed 10% maximum.*~~ ~~*iii. Divert surface water and roof runoff away from the sacrifice area.*~~ ~~*iv. Provide filtering of runoff from the heavy use area.*~~ ~~*v. The primary use of the heavy use area shall be within the purpose of establishing a small acreage grazing system. Design considerations shall not be given to its use as a riding or exercise area or any purpose other than to perform its water quality benefit.*~~		

MATRIX OF ADVANCED STREAM PROTECTION FORESTRY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022 (CY22) TAC					
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**TAC Recommendations**	**DCR Supports**	**FY2024/2025**
			~~5. Each grassed grazing paddock will be sized based on soil type, topography and herd size and be maintained in at least 80% coverage of permanent forage.~~ ~~6. Livestock must be excluded from all streams. A minimum 35 ft. wide vegetated buffer shall be maintained directly adjacent to all streams, ponds, and other watercourses.~~ ~~7. Walkways may be installed to facilitate herd movement from the barn to the heavy use area and grazing paddocks. Walkways are to be designed in accordance with NRCS Standard 575 (Animal Trails and Walkways).~~ ~~8. In order for the forage in the grass paddocks to take up nutrients such as nitrogen, it must be managed for growth and harvested for hay or pasture.~~ ~~9. Critical eroding and sensitive areas will be fenced out and permanent cover established.~~ ~~10. An Animal Waste Management System plan shall be developed as required by NRCS Standard 561-Heavy Use Protection.~~ ~~11. Tax credit is authorized for: watering facilities, stream exclusion and interior paddock fencing, excavation, site preparation, geotextile fabric, stone, pipeline, and watering troughs. Tax credit is not authorized for heavy use sacrifice areas that exceed the allowable sizing limitation as outlined in 4.i or the designated use requirement in 4.v.~~		

MATRIX OF ADVANCED STREAM PROTECTION FORESTRY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022 (CY22) TAC					
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**TAC Recommendations**	**DCR Supports**	**FY2024/2025**
			~~*12. In order to be eligible for cost share or tax credit, producers must be fully implementing a current Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) on all agricultural production acreage contained within the field on which this practice will be implemented. The NMP must comply with all requirements set forth in the Nutrient Management Training and Certification Regulations (4VAC50-85 et seq.) and the Virginia Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria (revised July 2014); must be prepared and certified by a Virginia certified Nutrient Management Planner; and must be on file with the local District before any cost-share payment is made to the participant. Plans shall also contain any specific production management criteria designated in the BMP practice (4VACV50-85-130G).*~~ ~~*13. This practice is subject to the requirements of applicable NRCS Standards. These may include 342 Critical Area Planting, 362 Diversion, 376 Roofs and Covers, 382 Fence, 391 Riparian Herbaceous Cover, 393 Filter Strip, 412 Grassed Waterway, 516 Livestock Pipeline, 528 Prescribed Grazing, 561 Heavy Use Area Protection, 574 Spring Development, 575 Trails and Walkways, 558 Roof Runoff Structures, 614 Watering Facilities, and 642 Water Well.*~~ ~~*14. 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 implementation. By accepting a state tax credit for this practice, the*~~		

MATRIX OF ADVANCED STREAM PROTECTION FORESTRY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022 (CY22) TAC					
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**TAC Recommendations**	**DCR Supports**	**FY2024/2025**
			~~*participant agrees to maintain all practice components for the specified lifespan. This practice is subject to spot check by the District 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. As set forth by Virginia Code, the Commonwealth currently provides a tax credit for implementation of certain agricultural best management practices as discussed in the Tax Credit Guidelines of the VACS Manual.*~~ ~~*2. If a participant receives cost-share payment(s) from another source(s), only the percent of the total cost of the project that the participant contributed is used to determine the tax credit.*~~ ~~*D. Technical Responsibility*~~ ~~*Technical and administrative responsibility is assigned to qualified technical DCR and District 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.*~~		

MATRIX OF ADVANCED STREAM PROTECTION FORESTRY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022 (CY22) TAC					
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**TAC Recommendations**	**DCR Supports**	**FY2024/2025**
9S	SL-5	The "Description and Purpose" of the SL-5 Diversions practice does not match the typical application of a diversion. As written, the purpose is to treat nutrient- and sediment-laden water, but there are other more appropriate and less costly VACS practices that can be used for that purpose. When necessary, diversions are able to be cost-shared on using other practices. To avoid confusion and inappropriate usage of this practice, it should be removed from the VACS program.	Remove the SL-5 Diversions practice from the VACS manual. ~~*Name of Practice: DIVERSIONS*~~ ~~*DCR Specifications for No. SL-5*~~ ~~*This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Diversions best management practice which are applicable to all contracts entered into with respect to that practice.*~~ ~~*A. Description and Purpose*~~ ~~*A diversion is a channel with a supporting ridge on the lower side constructed across the general land slope utilized to improve water quality by directing nutrient and sediment-laden water from large areas to sites where it can be used or disposed of safely.*~~ ~~*B. Policies and Specifications*~~ ~~*1. Cost-share and tax credit are authorized for:*~~ ~~*i. Diversions, ditches, or dikes. Subsurface drains may be installed where necessary for the proper functioning of the diversion.*~~ ~~*ii. Installation of structures such as pipe, chutes, underground outlets, or other outlets, if needed, for proper functioning of a ditch or dike, for more even flow, or to protect outlets from erosion.*~~ ~~*iii. Necessary leveling and filling to permit*~~	Yes	FY2024

MATRIX OF ADVANCED STREAM PROTECTION FORESTRY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022 (CY22) TAC					
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**TAC Recommendations**	**DCR Supports**	**FY2024/2025**
			~~*installation on an effective system.*~~ ~~*iv. Removing portions of stonewalls or hedgerows, if necessary, to permit establishment of the practice.*~~ ~~*2. Cost-share and tax credit are not authorized for ditches or dikes designed to impound water for later use or that will be a part of a regular irrigation system.*~~ ~~*3. A protective outlet or waterway that is installed solely as an outlet for a diversion system and serves no other conservation purpose should be cost-shared as a component of this practice. A protective outlet or waterway that, by itself, solves a conservation problem but also serves as an outlet for a diversion system should be cost-shared under practice WP-1 or WP-3.*~~ ~~*4. Cost-share and tax credit with the same person is limited to once on the same acreage.*~~ ~~*5. Soil loss rates must be computed for all applications for use in establishing priority considerations.*~~ ~~*6. This practice is subject to NRCS Standard 362 Diversions.*~~ ~~*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*~~		

MATRIX OF ADVANCED STREAM PROTECTION FORESTRY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022 (CY22) TAC					
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**TAC Recommendations**	**DCR Supports**	**FY2024/2025**
			~~*agrees to maintain all practice components for the specified lifespan. This practice is subject to spot check by the District 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% of the total eligible costs.*~~ ~~*2. As set forth by Virginia Code, the Commonwealth currently provides a tax credit for implementation of certain agricultural best management practices as discussed in the Tax Credit Guidelines of the VACS Manual.*~~ ~~*3. If a participant receives cost-share, only the participant's eligible out-of-pocket share of the project cost is used to determine the tax credit.*~~ ~~*D. Technical Responsibility*~~ ~~*1. Technical and administrative responsibility is assigned to qualified technical DCR and District 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*~~		

MATRIX OF ADVANCED STREAM PROTECTION FORESTRY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022 (CY22) TAC					
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**TAC Recommendations**	**DCR Supports**	**FY2024/2025**
			~~*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.*~~		

MATRIX OF DEFERRED STREAM PROTECTION FORESTRY RECOMMENDATIONS			
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**Reason for Deferring**
5S (b) Portable Shade Structures		Shade is an issue that producers often face when considering an SL-6W, SL-6N. As a part of the eligible components of an SL-6W, SL-6N, and an SL-7. Consider for cost share or tax credit. b. Portable shade structures for intensive rotational grazers should also be an eligible component. These structures are meant to be moved as often as the cattle.	The Subcommittee agreed to discuss this suggestion during the 2023 TAC cycle, although concerns were raised by members about the lack of an NRCS standard for shade structures and the potential cost of these structures.

MATRIX OF TABLED STREAM PROTECTION FORESTRY RECOMMENDATIONS			
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**Reason for Tabling**
2S	WP-2P	For WP-2P include the buffer incentive payments of $80/acre/year (similar to SL-6W, WP-2W, FR-3, and WQ-1) if farmers are willing to use temporary/portable fencing to create buffers of at least 35 feet when excluding their livestock. The additional incentive may drive wider adoption.	The Subcommittee had concerns with the ability of the District and others to enforce the buffers with the lack of permanent infrastructure.
4S	SL-7	Include a well as a component of the SL-7. In some cases producers have developed a spring, and the spring is not as reliable as they thought, or they have depended on a hardened crossing and we have a few years of dry weather and cattle struggle to have adequate water. Or perhaps an old SL-6 still in lifespan gets sold and broken into two properties and the well is only on one side. In these circumstances it would be beneficial to have a well put in so the rest of the components of the SL-6 are able to be used.	The Subcommittee raised concerns about the possibility of herd expansion with this suggestion. Additionally, the BMP Manual already addresses instances of cost-shared spring developments or limited accesses going dry under *Practice Failure*. In the instance of a property sale splitting a single watering system between two properties, the original contract holder would be responsible for repayment and for transferring responsibility to the new owner.
5S (a) Transpla-nted Trees		Shade is an issue that producers often face when considering an SL-6W, SL-6N. As a part of the eligible components of an SL-6W, SL-6N, and an SL-7. Consider for cost share or tax credit. a. Shade trees transplanted from a nursery or producer be an eligible cost of these practices After contacting a local nursery the following prices were quoted for transplanting a 20 foot shade tree(multiple species) To purchase, deliver and transplant a 20 foot shade tree it would cost about $2,500.00 per tree, and the owner would need to water and protect with temporary fencing for 1 year. Nursery guarantees tree for 1 year.	The Subcommittee had concerns with survival rates of the new trees, the water quality benefit provided by the shade, and expense of the trees needed to provide an adequate amount of shade.

MATRIX OF TABLED STREAM PROTECTION FORESTRY RECOMMENDATIONS			
Item #	**Ag. BMP**	**Suggestion to the TAC**	**Reason for Tabling**
		If producer has his own easily accessed trees, nursery would transplant those trees for $750 a tree (they can transplant 7-10 trees in a day and price would decrease with each tree. Temporary fencing for 1 year, and watered for 1 year. As a side note the nursery grown trees are said to be hardier and less prone to wind damage, according to nursery.	
6S	SL-10	Pasture Management Payments should increase to $35 per acre per year.	No explanation was provided about why the payment should be increased; therefore, the Subcommittee did not feel this suggestion was appropriate to move forward. The same water quality benefit would be realized but at an increased cost.
8S	SL-11	Review/revise the SL-11 practice to include stone treatment (or 561 Heavy Use Area Protection). The practice currently is subject to 342 Critical Area Planting, 382 Fence, and 484 Mulching. It is an underused practice and would be useful to assist in erosion control on smaller operations such as small horse operations.	This suggestion is already addressed through the SL-11B and other existing VACS practices.
10S		Create and offer a Herbaceous Riparian Buffer practice. The existing FR-3 is specific to the planting of trees to create a forested buffer. Some landowners or potential participants are not willing to plant a forested buffer, but would plant a herbaceous buffer that would be more beneficial to water quality and wildlife if it were native herbaceous species. Similar to CREP practice CP-29, this practice would be available to VACS participants who may not be eligible for or interested in federal buffer planting programs. We would suggest the practice allow the planting of native warm season grasses, wildflowers and shrubs.	The Subcommittee believes this is a training issue, rather a need for a new specification. Native warm season grasses are already eligible for cost-share funding under WQ-1 and shrubs can be planted as part of the FR-3 specification.