

EXAMPLE

MAY 1996 INSTRUCTIONS For FY-97 FLAT RATES SCHEDULE

FSA/MDA

Each Soil Conservation District (SCD) and local Farm Service Agency (FSA) committee **are to establish flat rates only for components in regular use in their area.** Components not used in your area should be indicated on the Schedule with “n/a”.

If necessary, the SCD should consult the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program office about adding new items. The local FSA office may wish to add components for practices on which FSA cost-shares, although MACS does not (for example, the components of FSA forestry practices).

Please refer to the enclosed Flat Rate Schedule for the item number of each component. *Convert all units for all components into those specified on the form.* **Installation, labor and equipment charges are to be included in all component prices.**

The following details what is, or is not, to be included in the cost of each component:

Items 1, 2 and 3 – Contour Farming, Contour Orchard, and Strip-cropping continue to be established at statewide rates of \$20/acre to encourage these practices which have minimal farmer expense. The rates are to include layout and establishment of the practices, including man hours, tractor time, and incidental costs. Local office may wish to advise FSA/MACS of any problems encountered with these rates.

Items 4, 5 and 6 – Construction of a Waterway, Diversion, or Terrace. Excavation and grading costs only are to be included, on a linear-foot basis. Seeding, Curlex or other items should not be included. For waterway l.f. rate, use the typical local cost. Cases involving extra width or depth (e.g., to fill a gully) can be covered through Item 7, excavation and earth fill.

Item 7 – Excavation and earth fill are to be listed whenever needed in any project, except normal cases of waterways, diversions and terraces. Include costs for any special compaction equipment, such as tampers or sheepsfoot rollers. (Grade stabilization structure costs should be made up from components on list, including Item 7). Item 7 deliberately does not specify equipment type. Prior to obtaining quotes for this item, it may be helpful to review the range of current local rates on recent MACS Claims for Payment.

Item 8 – Core trench costs should be listed separately from the excavation and earth fill, above. Again, include costs for any special compaction equipment, and provide an explanation of why a different rate is needed. The core trench component is to be used only for dams.

Item 9 – “Critical area plantings” or seeding should be itemized on applications and Claims for Payment for waterways, diversions, grassed terraces, stream protection projects, and critical area seeding. This rate should apply to preparation and seeding (as needed) for all components or practices where seeding is not already included in a linear-foot or other unit rate. Seedbed preparation should be included in the per-acre rate, but not land shaping, clearing, mulch nor

erosion-control matting, which are priced separately. Please specify your local application rates for seed, lime, and fertilizer. Farm and custom seeding are not differentiated. (Hydroseeding, while an acceptable alternative for erosion control, must not be the basis for the critical area planting rate; hydroseeding will be cost-shared only at the regular critical area planting rate.)

Item 10 – Alternative cover planting should be used to set rates for species or mixtures commonly used in your area for vegetative (not trees and shrubs) cover establishment other than “critical area” seedlings. As in Item 9, rates should include seedbed preparation, lime, and fertilizer. Recommended CRP plantings should be noted here. Add additional lines as needed. FSA needs the separate fertilizer rates.

Item 10a – Winter Cover Crop: The flat rates listed in the Schedule are established at statewide rates for the MACS Program.

Item 11 – The excelsior-type erosion-control matting is to include installation and staples. Curlex, North American Excelsior and several other companies provide matting that has been approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Item 12 – Plastic-type erosion-control matting also includes installation and staples, or whatever type of tie-down the manufacturer specifies. It is to be used only where the design runoff velocity exceeds that allowed for excelsior-type matting. Enkamat, Mirrormat, or equivalent brands may be used.

Item 13 – Plastic mesh should include installation and staples. The mesh is of the type used to cover straw mulch.

Item 14 – Straw mulch should include labor and equipment charges to put the mulch in place.

Item 15 – The tree planting component is intended only for use in the MACS Program. Tree Planting for cover establishment should reflect the FSA cost-share rate for pine seedlings. The farmer may plant any species that meets specifications, but cost-share will be based on pine. On the Eastern Shore, Loblolly Pine should be the basis for cost-sharing; on the Western Shore, use White Pine. Seedling age should reflect the standard supplied by State Forest Service nurseries, usually 2 years. Include the cost of the trees, planting, soil additives per FSA standards, and seedbed preparation, if any. Note: Do not use this line to establish rates for the range of components making up FSA forestry practices; FSA offices will need to establish those separately.

Item 16 – Silt fence should include fabric, stakes (10’ maximum spacing) and installation in accordance with “Maryland Standards and Specifications for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control” (MDE).

Item 17 – Site preparation should include only grading/shaping and obstruction removal. Clearing and stump removal are listed below. Seedbed preparation is included with components elsewhere and should not be included here. Site preparation should not be used in conjunction with tree planting.

Item 18 – Clearing should include the cutting and removal of trees and stumps from the construction site, but only those costs involved with moving the trees from the *immediate* area. Rates should not be based on hauling trees to the far side of the farm. Convert linear feet into acres for hedgerow removal considered to be clearing.

Item 19a – Rodent guard is to include installation.

Item 20 – Stone costs are to include stone, delivery, and placement. 2” aggregate refers to coarse aggregate (2”-2.5”), with all pieces about the same size (poorly graded). Gravel numbers are referenced to Maryland State Highway Administration “Standards and Specifications for Construction Materials”, 1982, Table 903. MD #6 (AASHTO-M43-No.57) is gravel (.25”-1.5”) and MD #7 (AASHTO-M43-No. 67) if gravel (.25”-1”)

Item 21 – Filter cloth rate must include installation. Staples are not to be used with filter cloth.

Item 22 – Gabion cost should include the gabion or reno mattress itself, the stone to fill it, and the labor for placement and filling of the most commonly used sizes. The rate shown should be the average cost per cubic yard; do not list sizes separately. Any excavation costs should not be included, but instead addressed under Item 7.

Items 23 and 24 – Concrete costs should show concrete, wall ties, bridges, installation, and the use or rental of forms.

Items 25, 26 and 27 – Reinforcement bars, weld wire mesh, and expansion-joint materials should include installation.

Item 28 – 12” concrete block wall should include the costs of 2-hole block, mortar, Duro-wall and installation.

Item 29 – Mortar mix- This is intended for use in small quantities only, where necessary to seal or join pipe or pre-formed structures. One or more standard bag sizes may be listed.

Items 30, 31 and 32 – Collection boxes, watering troughs and pre-formed concrete pipes should include the cost of the item and installation. Pad and pipe costs are not to be included in these rates; use the separately listed rates for concrete and pipes.

Item 33 – Float valve kit for pressure-fed trough is to include installation.

Item 34 – Well drilling for Spring Development: Depending on how well drilling companies charge for their services, rates can be indicated either by cost per foot for well drilling and casing *or* by an amount for the complete package. Set a single rate for the county unless separate rates are needed in your area for rock drilling versus drilling through soils and saprolite.

Item 35 – An acceptable dynamite rate will be determined upon submission of three quotes for each specific job.

Item 36 – Fencing may be used to protect animal waste storage pits and lagoons, or may be used in some streambank protection schemes. The rate shown should reflect the cheaper of either wood or metal posts at 10’ spacing, with 4-strand, 12 ½ - gauge wire. (Gates are not cost-shareable. Do not include in rate.)

Items 37, 38 and 38a – Gate valve, flap gate, and shear gate rates should include installation. Please fill in the size most commonly used, with additional entries, if several sizes are used.

Item 39 – Septic or storage tanks for dairy parlor waste: show installed cost.

Item 40 – NRCS pre-approved waste storage structure, MD-84-02: Provide detailed backup documentation on a separate sheet, as in the past, to justify the rates. Show only the single most cost-efficient building without all the alternatives. For example, there is no need to list both plywood and metal siding, just show whichever is less expensive. Figure the total cost for any size structure; subtract out (for separate listing) the floor, rear pushup wall (alternatives), one truss, two posts and two end gable covers; then divide the remainder by the number of bays to come up with a “per-bay” price. List the other items separately. Once the flat rate has been approved, all documentation for individual projects (on Applications and Claims for Payment in MACS Program) should show only these four cost components.

Item 41 – Prefabricated concrete panels are of the Nitterhouse type and should be shown as the installed cost. Rates can be indicated two ways – cost per foot or cost per gallon. Please indicate on the flat rate schedule which unit of measurement was used for your county flat rates.

Item 42 – Pressure-treated lumber and angle irons for animal waste gates should include fabrication and installation costs. These items are only to be used on animal waste gates.

Item 42a – Ag waste fence is only cost-shared by MACS if essential in a particular waste storage project for the safety of livestock or humans. Name or describe the type of fence being specified.

Item 43 – Manure pump costs will be approved on a case-by-case basis, upon submission of three competitive bids. The flat rate for each project will be based on the average cost of the three bids. The farmer may install a more expensive pump, but MACS cost-shares only on installed costs up to the average of the three bids.

Item 44 – Plastic pipe (perforated or solid) should include installation and PVC glue. All costs should be averaged into two categories: “Pipe costs” should include pipe, installation, glue, caps, anti-seep collars, and couplings. “Accessories costs” should include T’s, Y’s, elbows, reducers, glue and installation. (Reducers should be figured at the rate of the larger of the two diameters.) To calculate average “accessories cost,” add up the individual costs for T’s, Y’s, elbows, etc. to arrive at the average per-piece price. Refer to NRCS standards for the specifications for 100 PSI, Sch 40, SDR 26 and 35, etc.

Item 45 – Pipe for gravity-flow animal waste systems should include the pipe and installation. Include the cost of PVC glue in the PVC pipe price.

Item 46 – Steel pipe should include installation costs and any couplings.

Items 47, 48 and 49 – BCCMP, anti-seep collars, and aluminum pipe costs are to be shown as installed costs. Include anticipated excavation and tamping. Do not include seeding or erosion-control matting; they are listed under separate flat rates. Gaskets are to be included with bands and flanges; stubs are to be included with riser fabrication. Anti-vortex devices and baffles are to be included with trash racks.

Item 50 – Roof runoff management: Rates for gutters must include nails, hanging straps, brackets, end caps, couplings and labor for installation. Downspouts should include couplings, elbows, straps and labor. Fascia board rates should include nails, bolts and labor.

We appreciate your time and attention to detail.