

**VEGETATED TREATMENT AREA  
(CODE 635)**

**DESCRIPTION**

An area of vegetation to remove sediment, organic matter, and other pollutants from wastewater.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this practice is for the establishment of filter areas for removing sediment, organic matter, or other pollutants and for utilizing nutrients from wastewater through plant uptake.

**CONDITION**

The practice applies to locations requiring filter areas as part of an agricultural waste management system to treat wastewater.

**POLICIES**

1. This practice will be applied on farmland where animal wastes, waste-contaminated runoff, or wastewater constitutes a significant pollution hazard.
  - a. The installation applies to filter areas for runoff from concentrated livestock areas such as feedlots, barnyards, heavy-use area protection, manure stacking facilities, and composting facilities.
  - b. The installation applies to filter areas for wastewater treatment from milking parlors, milking centers, waste treatment lagoons, silos, and waste storage facilities.
2. A vegetated treatment area serves as one component of an animal waste management system. Other practices necessary to control grazing (Code 382), add storage capacity (Code 313), control sediment (Code 350), or protect areas of frequent and intense animal use (Code 561) may be included.
3. Cost-sharing *is authorized* for the following as deemed necessary by the SCD:
  - a. The installation of underground piping to convey clean water runoff away from the vegetated treatment area and/or animal waste storage facilities. Reasonable precautions must be taken at the point of discharge to prevent erosion problems.
  - b. Roof guttering and downspouts only to the extent necessary to prevent roof runoff from entering the vegetated treatment area. Use the Roof Runoff Structure practice (Code 558) for guttering and downspouts needed to correct an erosion problem or to prevent roof runoff from flowing across the vegetative treatment area.

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- c. Fencing if essential to prevent livestock access to vegetated treatment area.
  - d. Leveling and filling to permit the installation of an effective system as well as treatment strip.
  - e. Permanently installed equipment needed as an integral part of the collecting, treatment, and containment system. (See also 5. b below.)
4. A minimum of **fifteen (15)** animal units must regularly use or occupy the area being addressed. Operations with **eight (8)** to **fourteen (14)** animal units may be eligible based on the animal unit cost-effectiveness (SECTION III, #5).
5. The following **are not authorized** for cost-sharing:
  - a. Measures primarily for the prevention or abatement of air pollution, unless the measures also have soil conservation and water quality benefits.
  - b. Portable pumps, pumping equipment, or other portable equipment; equipment for removing, distributing, or applying animal waste on the land. (See also 3.e above.)
6. A current Waste Management System Plan (WMSP), according to NRCS Standards and Specifications, must be signed by the applicant and the District Conservationist and accompany the MACS Water Quality Project form. The WMSP must be farm-specific and include information on the situation, problem, geographic area, system components, component details, waste utilization, installation timetable, structure operation, and maintenance.
7. Applicants are required to keep their WMSP and NMP updated and current throughout the maintenance life of any animal waste treatment or containment project. These updates are the responsibility of the applicant and landowners, and the District is responsible for verifying the applicant has a current Waste Management System Plan.
8. NRCS Standards and Specifications for Vegetated Treatment Areas (Code 635) will be followed when applying this practice.
9. The practice must be properly maintained and operated for a minimum of ten (10) years. If this practice is installed as an integral part of the waste system, the acreage must be properly maintained and operated for a minimum of fifteen (15) years. The applicant agrees to provide all equipment, labor, and materials needed to meet this requirement.
10. The applicant and the farm's Nutrient Management Plan must be in compliance with Maryland's Nutrient Management regulations (COMAR 15.20.08) at the time of Application. No Applications will be approved without a Nutrient Management Plan Certification Form submitted with the Application (SECTION III, #30).

## COST-SHARE RATE

The State cost-share payment will not exceed 87.5% of the total eligible cost, not to exceed \$150,000 per project.

## ATTACHMENTS

***Applicant(s) with an outstanding Unsatisfactory On-Farm Status Review of BMP Maintenance and Use of previous project(s) may be ineligible for MACS Cost-Share funding. When a previous project expires with outstanding unsatisfactory status, the applicant is ineligible for any future MACS funding.***

*The following items are needed:*

1. A copy of a recorded deed(s) for the parcel(s) where the BMP is located. If the current, appropriate deed is already on file in the MACS Office, then record both the agreement number of the file where the deed is kept and the liber/folio numbers in the General Comments section of the application.
2. A copy of the Real Property Data Search page from the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation's website ([www.dat.maryland.gov](http://www.dat.maryland.gov)) indicating the Maryland Property View Account ID Number and owner information.
3. An aerial photograph indicating the property lines as well as all existing and proposed BMPs.
4. A new or revised WMSP addressing the storage and management of all animal wastes produced on the farm must be prepared by the SCD and submitted with a MACS Water Quality Project form for the new project. This should include information on the situation, problem, geographic area, system components, component details, waste utilization, installation timetable, structure operation, and maintenance. This document must be signed by the District Conservationist and the applicant and/or operator.
5. Certificate of Imminent Start-up or Expansion of a Livestock Operation form (SECTION III, # 19), if applicable.
6. A plan view sketch graphically demonstrating the layout and details of the project BMP.
7. Nutrient Management Plan Certification Form shall be submitted with the Application (SECTION III, #30).