

**WETLAND CREATION FOR WATER QUALITY  
(CODE 658)**

**DESCRIPTION**

An area of vegetated wetland to remove sediment, nutrients, organic matter, and other pollutants from subsurface groundwater associated with agricultural operations. The creation of a wetland on a site location that was historically a non-wetland.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this practice is the creation of wetland areas and their functions and values, which will result in removing sediment, organic matter, and pollutants and utilizing nutrients from surface and groundwater associated with agricultural operations.

**CONDITION**

This practice applies to sites where hydric soils may not exist, and the objective is to establish specific wetland functions.

**POLICIES**

1. This practice must meet NRCS practice standards for Code 658.
2. This practice will be applied only on farmland.
3. When using the minimum required buffer of 35 feet, the buffer can be planned as part of the Wetland Creation for Water Quality – Subsurface Drainage.
4. When using a larger buffer, plan the buffer using the practice standard for Riparian Herbaceous Cover (Code 393), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), or Conservation Cover (327), whichever is most appropriate.
5. In order to provide water quality benefits, the practice shall have a contributing watershed greater than the acreage of the practice. Maintain the water level as much as possible to ensure that the created wetland functions properly.
6. Cost-sharing is limited to the minimum activity needed to create wetland hydrology and establish vegetative cover, including the following, when deemed necessary by the SCD. Cost share *is authorized* for the following:
  - a. Roof Runoff Structure (code 558)
  - b. Lined Outlet (code 468)

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- c. Structure for Water Control (code 587)*
- d. Subsurface Drain (code 606)*
- e. Saturated Buffer (code 604)*
- f. Subsurface Denitrifying Bioreactor (code 605)*
- g. Wetland Creation for Water Quality – Subsurface Drainage (code 658)*
- h. Excavation, leveling, and filling to permit the installation of an effective system as well as vegetative cover (including mulch) to protect the wetland;*
- i. Exclusion fencing, if essential to prevent livestock access;*
- j. Approved seed and seeding, seedbed preparation, fertilizers, and pesticides to get vegetation established for the required buffer. (Code 393 or Code 327 guidelines would be followed for areas leading to the BMP);*
- k. Temporary cover; or*
- l. Structures such as pipes, chutes, and outlets.*

7. The following **are not authorized** for cost-share:

- a. Vertical Drain*
- b. Field drainage lateral(s)*
- c. Mowing after establishment for weed control.*
- d. Measures primarily for the prevention or abatement of air pollution, unless the measures also have soil conservation and water quality benefits; or*
- e. Portable pumps, pumping equipment, or other portable equipment.*

8. Noxious weeds and other invasive plants must be controlled by spot treatment, using mechanical methods or approved herbicides.

9. This practice must be maintained for a minimum of ten (10) years. Financial assistance may be provided for repairs if a BMP previously installed with MACS support was damaged due to an unpredictable act of nature and not due to the applicant's negligence or poor maintenance.

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).

11. If required, a Drainage Water Management plan (code 554) must be followed.

12. For cost-effectiveness, consider locating the saturated buffer where it will intercept a subsurface drain outlet draining at least 15 acres.

## COST SHARE RATE

The State cost-share payment will not exceed 100% of the total eligible cost, not to exceed \$150,000 per project.

USDA shares will be considered co-cost shares and entered accordingly on the Water Quality Project form and Claim for Payment.

## ATTACHMENTS

***Applicants 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, the applicant is ineligible for any future MACS funding.***

In addition to the Maryland Property View Account ID Number on the MACS Water Quality Project Form, 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. For sediment control practices, indicate the drainage area and the direction of flow.
4. A plan view sketch graphically demonstrating the layout and details of the proposed BMP.
5. Nutrient Management Plan Certification Form shall be submitted with the Application (SECTION III, #30).