

**GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURE  
(CODE 410)**

**DESCRIPTION**

A structure designed to stabilize the grade and control erosion in natural or artificial channels.

**PURPOSE**

To provide protection from erosion and to prevent pollutants from nutrients, sediment, animal wastes, or agricultural chemicals from reaching the waters of the State.

**CONDITION**

Apply this practice in areas where the concentration and flow velocity of water is such that structures are needed to stabilize the grade and control gully erosion, and where runoff containing pollutants constitutes a significant water quality problem. This practice can also be applied as part of a system needed to direct clean water around areas where animal wastes are stored or where they accumulate in significant amounts, as well as part of a system to intercept and store waste-contaminated water.

**POLICIES**

1. In the case of either diverting clean water or diverting waste-contaminated water, the area around which the water is being diverted must be a permanent feature of the operation, and it must be an area where livestock wastes accumulate or are stored in large amounts, therefore; no estimate of soil savings is required. Justify the project on its water quality benefits.
  - a. 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).
2. Cost-sharing *is authorized* for the following:
  - a. Sediment detention or retention structures such as erosion control dams (excluding water storage-type dams), de-silting reservoirs, sediment basins, debris basins or similar structures.
  - b. Channel linings, chutes, drop spillways, and pipe drops that dispose of excess water.
  - c. Leveling and filling to permit the installation of the structure; vegetative cover (including mulching) needed to protect the structure.
  - d. Installation of sediment retention structures on public roadsides only where such structures are *essential* to solve farm-based pollution or conservation problems.
  - e. Permanent Fencing (Code 382) to protect water quality and/or the water body banks and beds from damage by domestic livestock. This should be listed as a separate BMP on the Water Quality Project form.

3. Cost-sharing *is not authorized* for the following:
  - a. Irrigation structures which are part of a distribution system for irrigation water,
  - b. Water control structures, i.e. flash board risers in a ditch or channel, or
  - c. Pipe, stone, or concrete to serve as a crossing or lane over or through the waterway.
4. Consideration shall be given, when feasible, to the needs of wildlife when establishing the protective measure.
5. NRCS Standards and Specifications for Grade Stabilization Structure (Code 410) shall be followed when applying this practice either alone or as part of a pollution abatement system.
6. This practice must be properly maintained for a minimum of ten (10) years. The applicant agrees to provide all equipment, labor and materials needed to meet this requirement.
7. 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 100% 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. 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).