

** The Commission will consider policy adjustments at the February 2011 meeting. New policies will be provided when updates have been made.*

WQ10 Stream Protection

Purpose

Reduce excess amounts of sediment, organic material, nutrients, and pesticides in surface runoff and reduce excess nutrients and other chemicals in shallow ground water flow with a secondary benefit of stream bank stabilization.

Applicability

Applies to areas immediately adjacent to permanent or intermittent streams, streams containing perennial pools, or natural wetlands, where livestock have uncontrolled access for watering purposes.

Erosion Requirements

Practice has no erosion requirements.

Specifications

The completed practice must meet the NRCS Standards and Specifications for Critical Area Planting (342), Pond (378), Access Control (472), Pipeline (516), Stream Crossing (578), Watering Facility (614), and Water Well (642) contained in the Field Office Technical Guide.

Policies

1. The area where the practice will be applied must currently have livestock to qualify.
2. The area excluded must have adequate boundary fence prior to installing exclusion fence.
3. A one time out of production incentive for livestock exclusion and to allow the riparian area to regenerate naturally or be maintained in a conservation buffer. The acres will be measured from the high flow bank of the stream to the fence, regardless of the type of the existing vegetative cover within the excluded area.
 - a. Excluded area must be a minimum of 25 feet and a maximum of 150 feet from the high bank. Incentive is available for both sides of the stream.
 - b. The maximum width of the stream corridor can be an average, with 180 feet as the maximum allowed in the averaging calculation.
4. Both sides of the stream must be excluded from livestock access.
5. The excluded area may be flash grazed beginning one year after contract payment. Note: Livestock access to the excluded area outside of the approved dates is a violation of the maintenance agreement, except for designated stream crossing points.
6. Grazing should not occur under wet weather conditions to prevent manure from being carried to the streams by runoff or floodwaters.

- a. Cool season grasses (CSG) may be grazed for a single three (3) day period between April 15th and May 7th, and again for a single three (3) day period between September 1st and October 1st. The average minimum grazing height is six (6) inches for CSG. Strip grazing of the excluded area using temporary fence may be utilized during the above spring and fall periods as long as livestock graze each strip only one time for 3 days or less, and maintain a 6 inch average minimum grazing height.
 - b. Warm season grasses (WSG) may be grazed for a single three (3) day period between July 15th and August 15th. The average minimum grazing height is eight (8) inches for WSG. Strip grazing as indicated above may also be carried out for WSG.
 - c. Grazing dates may be restricted further due to establishment of a planted buffer. Consideration should be given to wildlife when flash grazing is practiced.
 - d. Livestock stocking rates should be reevaluated based upon the grazing area remaining after exclusion of the riparian area. The upland acres remaining will be under greater grazing pressure. Reducing livestock numbers, and/or implementation of a grazing system is recommended to prevent upland erosion.
7. Spraying is allowed to control noxious weeds; along fence lines for maintenance purposes, and for suppression of fescue and/or weeds in a WSG or tree/shrub planting for erosion control or wildlife benefit. Chemicals utilized for maintenance are not eligible for cost-share.
 8. Mowing within the excluded area is prohibited except for fence maintenance.
 9. ***Cost-share is authorized for:***
 - a. **Water Source**
Development of a watering source(s) for livestock when the stream is fenced to exclude livestock. More than one watering source may be developed on farms where pipeline and trenching costs would exceed \$3,500, or when crossing roads or streams with pipeline is not recommended. Development of watering sources may not exceed \$3,500 each for a pond, or well. Designated stream crossings for livestock are authorized. All water supplies should be a minimum of 25 feet from the exclusion fence and a minimum of 100 feet from the high bank of the stream.
 - 1) Pond(s). This may include placement of a water line through an impoundment dam of an existing pond or reconstruction of ponds that no longer provide adequate livestock water.
 - 2) Well(s). The following are procedures and guidelines that must be followed if a well(s) is to be constructed:
 - a) The components that will be allowed under each well construction are limited to \$3,500, which include the well drilling, casing, grout, liner, electrical lines from the pump control box to the pump, and miscellaneous well components. Miscellaneous well components include the well cap, drive shoe, inverted bell, cement, fittings, and seals for the well itself.
 - b) All wells must be constructed and registered according to state requirements. Any type of state certification fee is not eligible for cost-share.
 - c) Tanks are limited to the fields adjacent to the stream.

- b. Limited access. If it is the least cost alternative, limited access may be authorized to allow controlled access to a stream or pond.
- c. Stream crossing(s).
- d. Exclusion fence.
- e. Critical Area Planting component. Fertility must be applied according to a soil test.

10. *Cost-share is not authorized for:*

- a. Spring Development. Cost-share is authorized under N574 Spring Development practice.

Maximum State Cost-Share

1. Assistance for components is limited to 75% of the county average cost, not to exceed the state average cost.
2. Incentive can not exceed \$500.00 per acre.

Map Requirements

1. A CMT Map Number must be submitted for contract approval. The map must show the following information that pertains to the contract:
 - Farm Perimeter
 - Existing Fence
 - Existing Water Source
 - Existing Water Supply
 - Planned Fence
 - Planned Water Source
 - Planned Water Supply
 - Planned Pipeline
 - Area Treated with Practice
 - Location of Power Source
 - Any other feature that may affect the practice.
2. A map that displays the completed practice must be scanned and attached as a “Map Document” in MoSWIMS prior to contract payment submission.

Technical Responsibilities

Technical staff has the responsibility for determining the need for the practice, for design of the practice based upon the minimum extent necessary, and to certify that the completed practice meets NRCS standards and specifications within commission policy.

Acres Served

Acres on which the incentive was paid.

Extent Installed

Feet of stream excluded.

Maintenance Life

10 years.