CHAPTER III

A. Cost-Share Rate and Incentive Levels

Vernon Parish

A. Cost-Share Rate and Incentive Levels

Practice Name	Unit	Practice Code	Base C/S (%)	LR / BF/R C/S (%)	Incentive ($ / Unit.)
Access Road	ft.	560	50	75	
Animal Trails and Walkways	ft.	575	50	75	
Brush Management	ac.	314			18 [2/]
Composting Facility	no.	317	75	90	
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) development/Implementation	no.	100			350[5/]
Contour Farming	ac.	330			5 [1/] [6/]
Cover & Green Manure Crop	ac.	340			20 [1/] [6/]
Critical Area Planting	ac.	342	75	90	
Dike	ft.	356	50	75	
Diversion	ft.	362	50	75	
Fence	ft.	382	50	75	
Field Border	ft.	386	75	90	
Filter Strip	ac.	393	75	90	
Forest Harvest Trails & Landings	ac.	655	50	75	
Forest Site Preparation	ac.	490	50	75	
Forest Stand Improvement	ac.	666	50	75	
Grade Stabilization Structure	no.	410	75	90	
Grassed Waterway	ac.	412	75	90	
Heavy Use Area Protection	ac.	561	50	75	
Irrigation Land Leveling	ac.	464	50	75	
Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery	no.	447	50	75	
Irrigation Water Conveyance:					
Ditch and Canal Lining	ft.	428	50	75	
Pipeline:	ft.	430	50	75	
Irrigation Water Management	ac.	449			6 [1/] [6/]
Land Smoothing	ac.	466	50	75	

A. Cost-Share Rate and Incentive Levels (continued)

Practice Name	Unit	Practice Code	Base C/S (%)	LR / BF/R C/S (%)	Incentive ($ / Unit.)
Lined Waterway or Outlet	ft.	468	50	75	
Mulching	ac.	484	75	90	
Nutrient Management	ac.	590			5 1/ 6/
Pasture & Hayland Planting	ac.	512	75	90	
Pest Management	ac.	595			5 1/ 6/
Pipeline	ft.	516	50	75	
Pond	no.	378	50	75	
Pond Sealing or Lining:	no.	521	50	75	
Precision Land Forming	ac.	462	50	75	
Prescribed Burning	ac.	338	50	75	
Prescribed Grazing	ac.	528A			5 1/ 6/
Range Planting	ac.	550	75	90	
Residue Management,					
No-till & Strip-till	ac.	329A			15 1/ 6/
Residue Management,					
Mulch-till	ac.	329B			10 1/ 6/
Residue Management,					
Ridge-till	ac.	329C			12 1/ 6/
Riparian Forest Buffer	ac.	391	75	90	
Riparian Herbaceous Cover	ac.	390	75	90	
Roof Runoff Management	no.	558	50	75	
Sediment Basin	no.	350	50	75	
Shallow Water Management For Wildlife	ac.	646			5 1/ 4/
Streambank & Shoreline Protection	ft.	580	50	75	
Structure for Water Control	no.	587	50	75	
Terrace	ft.	600	50	75	
Tree/Shrub Establishment	ac.	612	50 3/	75 3/	

Underground Outlet (with terrace)	**ft.**	**620**	**50**	**75**	

A. Cost-Share Rate and Incentive Levels (continued)

Practice Name	Unit	Practice Code	Base C/S (%)	LR / BF/R C/S (%)	Incentive ($ / Unit.)
Use Exclusion	ac.	472	50	75	
Waste Storage Facility	no.	313	75	90	
Waste Treatment Lagoon	no.	359	75	90	
Waste Utilization	ac.	633			10 1/ 6/
Water & Sediment Control Basin	no.	638	50	75	
Watering Facility	no.	614	50	75	
Well (livestock well)	no.	642	50	75	
Well Decommissioning	no.	351	50	75	

Note: Specific parish cost-share rates will be established within the state minimum / maximum range by the Local Work Group (LWG) and approved by the State Conservationist. Specific parish incentive levels will be established by the LWG not to exceed the state maximum. Cost-Share rates for Limited Resource Producers and Beginning Farmers or Ranchers will be established by the LWG at no less than 10% greater than the locally set cost-share rate not to exceed 90%.

1/ Maximum of 3 years
2/ Maximum of 1 year
3/ For tree planting in Riparian Zone – Base = 75%, LR / BF/R = 90%
4/ Not to exceed 100 acres per contract per year
5/ Maximum of 1 year – One payment per operation
6/ Not to exceed 300 acres per contract per year

Vernon Parish

CHAPTER III

B. General Practice Components

Vernon Parish

B. General Practice Components

A. Fertilizer and Liming - For any practices contained in this handbook for which cost-shares are authorized for fertilizer and/or lime, the quantity per acre and cost-share will be approved by the district conservationist in accordance with the following:

1. Where it is determined by the district conservationist that fertilizer and/or lime is needed for the successful establishment of the vegetative cover, it must be required.

2. Cost-shares may be approved for a quantity of plant flood and/or lime within the minimum and maximum application recommended by a soils test for establishment purposes for the area to be treated or, if a soils test is not available, the quantity shall be within a minimum and maximum application range established by the district conservationist in consultation with the state agronomist.

3. The minimum and maximum application range established shall be based on generally recognized soil deficiencies of the area according to soils test or experimental results.

4. Federal cost-sharing may be approved for nitrogen (straight or mixed) only when applied in connection with the establishment of a grass or small grain cover and then not to exceed 100 pounds of N per acre.

5. Federal cost-sharing may be approved for lime only when applied in connection with the establishment of a grass, legume, or small grain cover and then not to exceed 2 tons per acre.

   NOTE: *The application of 3 tons of boiler ash per acre will be considered the equivalent of one ton of agricultural limestone per acre.*

6. Federal cost-sharing may be approved for pelletized lime only when used in conjunction with Critical Area Planting (342) and determined needed by the district conservationist.

7. Cost-sharing shall not be allowed for rock or colloidal phosphate applied to alkaline soils. In areas of known or suspected alkaline soils, a current soils test of the area to be treated must be made and must show that the soil is acid (pH < 5.8) to be eligible for cost-sharing.

8. The application of 300 pounds of basic slag or rock phosphate will be considered the equivalent of 100 pounds of 20 percent superphosphate in meeting the total plant food requirements.

9. Rock phosphate must contain not less than 28 percent total phosphorus oxide ($P_2 O_5$) and must be ground fine enough for 85 percent to pass through a U.S. Standard No. 200 sieve (wet screening).

B. General Practice Components (continued)

10. Liming materials from ground dolomite or high calcium limestone, ground seashells, and aragonite are eligible. The use of pelletized lime is eligible for cost-sharing only in conjunction with Critical Area Planting (342). Ground dolomite, high calcium limestone, ground seashells, and aragonite must contain:

    a. At least 90 percent calcium carbonate equivalent.

    b. The following materials shall meet the following screen standards:

        1) Aragonite - Ninety percent shall pass through a ten mesh sieve and five percent shall pass through a one hundred mesh sieve.

        2) Ground Limestone (including dolomite) - Ninety percent shall pass through a ten mesh sieve, fifty percent shall pass through a sixty mesh sieve, and twenty-five percent shall pass through a one hundred mesh sieve.

        3) Ground Seashells - Fifty percent shall pass through a one hundred mesh sieve.

11. Materials

    In accordance with General Manual, Section 120, Part 404, Subpart F, Part 404.58 Materials required, and the Conservation Programs Manual Part 515, Subpart J 515.115(h), the following is provided:

    a. New materials are to be used in all work installed, unless the contract specifically provides for the use of used materials.

    b. Used materials may be authorized if the criteria set forth in the National Engineering Manual, Part, Materials, is met. The determination that used materials meet NRCS requirements rests with the individual having job approval authority.

    c. Cost-sharing for used materials is permitted only if they are purchased by a producer for a specified practice. Cost-share is not allowed for used materials that the producer has on

hand. Used materials are to be cost-shared on the basis of actual cost not to exceed the average cost of new materials.

d. The producer will submit a signed, itemized receipt, which will include the type and value of materials used, including used materials.

B. General Practice Components (continued)

STATEMENT ON SEED SOURCES FOR NRCS COST-SHARE PROGRAMS IN LOUISIANA

For the purpose of pine seed sources for Louisiana, the State will be divided into North and South using the northern parish boundaries of Vernon, Rapides, and Avoyelles as the North-South separation.

The following are acceptable seed sources by pine species and hardwoods for EQIP cost-share plantings:

LOBLOLLY PINE — For north Louisiana, use Louisiana or East Texas seed sources.

- For areas north of I-20, seed sources from Ashley, Union, Columbia, Lafayette, and Miller Counties, Arkansas, are also acceptable.

SLASH PINE — For south Louisiana, use South Louisiana and Southeast Texas seed sources. Slash pine is not recommended for planting in North Louisiana

LONGLEAF PINE — Use local sources or south Georgia, south Mississippi, south Alabama or north Florida.

HARDWOODS — Use Louisiana seed sources where possible or use seed sources collected within a 150 mile radius of the planting site.

Vernon Parish

CHAPTER III

C. Cost-Share Practice Provisions

Vernon Parish

Access Road (560)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide access while controlling runoff to prevent erosion and maintain or improve water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice where travelways are needed in a planned land use area.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for broad-based dips, low water crossings, rolling dips, wing ditches, and erosion control of roadside ditches.

2) Cost-sharing is authorized for Structure for Water Control (587) when needed to facilitate water flow through eligible EQIP access road constructions.

3) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for road or trail construction or maintenance.

D. **Lifespan** - These practices must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications** - The measures must be constructed to meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, Section IV; 560, Access Road; 468, Lined Waterway or Outlet.

1) Trees, stumps, brush, roots, weeds and other objectionable material shall be removed from the work area.

2) Disturbed area will be revegetated according to Critical Area Planting (Practice 342) specifications.

F. **Federal Cost-Share**

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Animal Trails and Walkways (575)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide or improve access to forage and water; reduce livestock concentrations; control livestock to permit proper grazing use and planned grazing systems; and improve grazing efficiency.

B. **Apply** this practice to marsh or coastal areas where access is limited for forage grazing.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for construction of animal trails and walkways on marsh lands where:

   a. It is determined suitable and needed by the NRCS technician.
   b. This practice is part of an overall conservation plan that protects soil, water, air, animal and plant resources.
   c. The producer ***has valid permits*** (coastal use, Section 404, etc.) that are needed.
   d. Recapping, as needed, on walkways that are at least 10 years old.

2) Cost-sharing is authorized for Structure for Water Control (587) when needed to facilitate water flow through eligible EQIP animal trail and walkway constructions.

3) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for reworking or capping of walkways constructed within 10 years.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications; 575, Animal Trails & Walkways; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Brush Management (314)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to improve or restore quality plant cover to:

1) reduce sediment and improve water quality

2) increase quality of desirable plants for livestock and wildlife

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land (non-cropped) were the need is determined by an NRCS technician.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to landowners through incentive payments.

D. **Lifespan** - The lifespan for this practice is 10 years, annual treatment may be necessary However, ***incentive payments will be allowed only once on each contracted acre***.

E. **Specifications**

1) Chemical control methods according to the NRCS standards and specifications for Brush Management, Practice 314, are allowed.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

1) Incentive payment only, not to exceed $18.00 per acre.

2) Incentive payment will be allowed only once on each contracted acre. Maintenance will be required throughout the life of the contract.

Composting Facility (317)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to reduce or eliminate water, land, or air pollution caused by agricultural wastes.

B. **Apply** this practice to areas on farmland where agricultural waste from a farming operation constitutes a significant pollution hazard.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for composting facilities that are needed as part of a system of the farming operation to manage agricultural wastes.

2) The waste to be composted must:

a. Be produced by the producer's farming operation

b. Not have been purchased or provided by outside sources

3) The producer may sell the composted waste material.

4) Cost-sharing shall be limited to the minimum size facility needed to solve the conservation problem.

5) Cost-sharing is not allowed for spreading.

6) The practice must be completed in accordance with the waste management plan.

7) Any installation adversely impacting historical sites or endangered species is not eligible for cost-sharing.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice shall be maintained for a minimum of 15 years after the calendar year after the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications** - The practice must meet the requirements of NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 317, Composting Facility. Structural requirements must be in accordance with NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 313, Waste Storage Facility.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Base** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 90 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) (100)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to improve water quality by developing and applying an overall conservation system that addresses all aspects of an animal feeding operation.

B. **Apply** this practice on eligible animal feeding operations where the development and implementation of a CNMP is required to treat the handling, collection, storage, treatment, and land application of animal waste products.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to landowners through incentive payments.

2) Incentive Payments are authorized **only** for:

a. New EQIP contracts that provide cost-share for a waste storage or treatment facility (i.e. Composting Facility (317), Irrigation Water Conveyance – Pipeline (430) (for animal waste distribution), Waste Storage Facility (313), and/or Waste Treatment Lagoon (359), and are required by EQIP policy to develop and implement a CNMP. And/or,

b. Animal feeding operations for which the producer has received a notice of violation to comply with environmental laws and is required by the notice to develop and implement

a CNMP. The producer must schedule all applicable practices and provide evidence of notification.

3) Incentive Payments are **NOT** authorized for:

a. Applications that do not fit the above criteria. And/or,

b. Existing EQIP participants who were required by EQIP policy to develop and implement a CNMP on the operation for which they are applying for. This will include all EQIP operations who received an approved EQIP contract for cost-share assistance for a waste storage or treatment facility since FY- 2003. And/or,

c. Operations for which the producer is required to establish a CNMP as a result of a judicial or court action.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained for the life of the practices comprised within the CNMP.

E. **Specifications** - Follow applicable references for development of a CNMP contained in GM 450 Part 401.03, GM 190 Part 402, and the National Planning Procedures Handbook – CNMP – Technical Guidance Document.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

1) Incentive payment only, $350 per operation.

2) A one time incentive payments will be allowed on the same operation for a maximum of ***one*** year.

Contour Farming (330)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to reduce erosion and improve water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice on sloping eligible cropland where needed to control soil and water loss.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to landowners through incentive payments.

2) Alignment with terraces and diversions is required where these practices are used.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained for the crop year.

E. **Specifications** - Follow specifications in the NRCS FOTG, Section IV; 330, Contour Farming.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

1) Incentive payment only, not to exceed $5.00 per acre.

2) Incentive payments will be allowed on the same acreage for a maximum of ***three*** years.

3) Incentive payments will allowed on a maximum of 300 acres per contract per year

Cover and Green Manure Crop (340)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to control erosion when the major crop does not furnish adequate cover; add organic materials to the soil, and improve infiltration, aeration, and tilth.

B. **Apply** this practice on eligible cropland.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to landowners through incentive payments.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained for the crop year as described in FOTG, Section IV; 340, Cover and Green Manure Crop.

E. **Specifications** - Follow specifications in the NRCS FOTG, Section IV; 340, Cover and Green Manure Crop.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

1) Incentive payment only, not to exceed $20.00 per acre.

2) Incentive payments will be allowed for a maximum of ***three*** years.

3) Incentive payments will be allowed on a maximum of 300 acres per contract per year

Critical Area Planting (342)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to reduce erosion and the pollution of land, water, or air from sediment of agricultural or silvicultural origin.

B. **Apply** this practice to critical areas (such as gullies, roadsides, field borders, and similar problem areas) on farms which are susceptible to erosion and/or where runoff carrying substantial amounts of sediment constitutes a significant pollution hazard.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. Grading, shaping and filling, the establishment (including minerals) of grasses (including filter strips), trees or shrubs, and similar measures which are practical for the solution of the problem.

b. For site preparation, planting, mulching, fertilizer and lime.

c. For protective fencing, if ***used primarily*** to solve the problem.

d. For installing runoff control measures on public roadsides only where such measures are essential to solve a farm-based pollution problem.

2) Consideration should be given to the needs of wildlife and enhancing the appearance of the area when establishing the protective measures.

D. **Lifespan** - The acreage shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications contained in Section IV of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, 342-Critical Area Planting; and 484-Mulching.

2) Fencing - See Part I of the EQIP Handbook

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

Vernon Parish

- **Base** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 90 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Dike (356)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to protect land against overflow or to regulate water.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land to control water for wildlife management purposes.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for clearing and in-place earth fill.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for the construction of dikes for purposes other than fish and wildlife management.

3) Cost-sharing is authorized ***only*** for the construction of dikes used exclusively for the development of Shallow Water Management for Wildlife (646).

4) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for construction of dikes used for aquaculture (catfish, crayfish, or minnow production) or rice production.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice must be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications contained in Section IV of the FOTG; Practice 356, Dike; and Practice 342, Critical Area Planting.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Diversion (362)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to divert excess water from one area for the safe disposal in other areas.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land subject to erosion from excess surface or subsurface water runoff where the problem can be corrected by such diversion facilities.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. Diversions, ditches, dikes, or subsurface drains where necessary for the proper functioning of the diversion.

b. Installation of structures such as pipe, chutes, underground outlets, or other outlets, if needed for proper functioning to a ditch or dike, for more even flow, or to protect outlets from erosion.

c. Necessary leveling and filling to permit installation on an effective system.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for ditches or dikes designed to impound water for later use, or which will be a part of a regular irrigation system.

3) A protective outlet or waterway which is installed solely as an outlet for a diversion system and serves no other conservation purpose would be cost-shared as a component of this practice.

D. **Lifespan** - The system shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the farmer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications** - The structure must be constructed to meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 362 Diversions.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate

Fence (382)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to facilitate the application of conservation practices that treat the soil, water, air, plant, animal, and human resource concerns.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land to subdivide grazing lands to facilitate the management of grazing systems; to protect treated critical areas from harmful grazing by domestic animals and/or wildlife; to exclude grazing animals from areas that should be protected from grazing; and to restrict access to applicable facilities (i.e. ponds and waste management facilities).

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized only for interior fences, unless the intended purpose is for use exclusion, critical area treatment, or applicable facility protection. Temporary fence will only be cost-shared when being applied in conjunction with critical area treatment.
2) Boundary fences may be eligible, as determined by the NRCS designated conservationist, if:
   - The fence is an integral part of a conservation system, such as a planned grazing system that facilitates improved management of grazing land, or protects certain areas from livestock when it is necessary for proper use of the area,
   - The area adjacent to the boundary fence is vital to the success of the conservation management system,
   - The primary purpose is not to separate ownership or exclude livestock from transportation networks, residential, commercial or industrial areas.
3) Cost-sharing will ***not*** be approved for the replacement or repair of existing fencing.
4) Cost-sharing is **not** authorized for property line fences
5) Cost-share rates are based on fence designs that will meet the minimum requirements listed in the 382 Fence standards and specifications in Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained for 20 years or until the purpose of the fence has been met under critical area treatment. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications; 382, Fence; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.

* F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Vernon Parish

- Batteries are not an eligible cost-share item. Solar accessories are not an eligible cost-share item unless the solar component is part of the energizer unit.

Field Border (386)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to control erosion, protect edges of field, and provide wildlife food and cover.

B. **Apply** this practice at field edges, especially edges of crop fields.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for site preparation, planting seeds, seedlings, and fertilizer.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) Species planted and rates must comply with FOTG, Section IV; 386, Field Border.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- **Base** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 90 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Vernon Parish

Filter Strip (393)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to remove sediment and other pollutants from runoff or waste water.

B. **Apply** this practice on eligible lands to reduce pollution and protect the environment.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for site preparation, shaping, seedbed preparation, planting, seeds, fertilizer and lime.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for herbicides used to maintain vegetative cover, minerals for enhancing production, streambank stabilization.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years if planted to grasses or 15 years if planted to trees or shrubs following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice will be carried out in accordance with standards and specifications contained in Section IV of the NRCS FOTG; 393, Filter Strip.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- **Base** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 90 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Forest Harvest Trails and Landings (655)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to allow for the removal of forest products while minimizing on-site and off-site damage to the resources.

B. **Apply** this practice to forest land to maintain site productivity, control sheet and rill erosion, and enhance water quality.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized only for the installation of waterbars.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for the construction of skid trails and landings.

D. **Lifespan** - The system shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 5 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) Place waterbars on abandoned roads, skid trails, and firebreaks where surface water runoff may be concentrated and cause erosion of the unvegetated soil.

2) Follow specifications in Practice (655) NRCS FOTG, Section IV.

3) Disturbed area will be revegetated according to Critical Area Planting (Practice 342) specifications.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Forest Site Preparation (490)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to establish a stand of trees for regeneration while considering environmental needs.

B. **Apply** this practice to cropland suitable for regeneration of a stand of trees for multipurpose forestry benefits.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) A forest management plan is required in all cases to be eligible for cost-share funds. Cost-share is limited to site preparation required for the regeneration of trees for the production of forest products where the potential productivity of the site meets or exceeds established minimum standards. Payment for this practice will be withheld until tree/shrub establishment is completed for the entire field.

2) Cost-share funds are authorized for:

a. Natural regeneration

1. Reducing or eliminating competing vegetation, including unmerchantable or undesirable trees and brush.

2. Creating soil conditions suitable for the natural establishment of seedlings representing the desired tree species. Seed sources must be adequate before site preparation is performed. Seed trees will be left until the area is regenerated.

3. Cost-share is authorized for one additional treatment on the area originally site prepared, if uncontrollable circumstances occur, such as a poor seed crop, and natural regeneration fails to become established to the required stocking level.

b. Artificial regeneration

1. Site preparation of land occupied largely by unmerchantable trees and brush, only where it is essential to permit planting desirable tree species. Technical assistance must be used to determine the suitability of the land for site preparation and the measures necessary to prevent the degradation of the site by soil erosion.

3) Cost-share funds are not authorized for:

a. Site preparation for ornamental Christmas trees or orchard trees.

b. Fencing
c. Measures to protect seedlings from wildlife destruction.

4) The area must be protected from destructive fire and destructive grazing. Controlled grazing is permitted if recommended by a SWCD approved grazing plan which is incorporated in the Forest Management Plan.

5) Chemicals used in performing this practice must be federally, state and locally registered and must be applied in accordance with authorized registered uses, label directions, and other federal and state requirements and policies.

6) Consideration must be given to protecting the resource base and the environment.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice shall be maintained for a minimum of 1 year following installation and establishment. Cost-share funds must be refunded if the practice is destroyed during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) Chemical Application for Site Preparation: Herbicides used in this practice must be labeled for forestry use and rates per acre must be approved by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry before application. Minimal acceptable rates per acre to various herbicides will be on file at the local LDAF office.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Forest Stand Improvement (666)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to release seedlings from competing vegetation, improve understory forage production aesthetics, wildlife habitat, recreation and improve water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice if needed, to acres converted from pastureland and agriculture land to release seedlings from competing vegetation.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) A forest management plan developed by the NRCS is required to be eligible for cost-share funds. Cost-share funds are limited to the release of seedlings for the primary purpose of eliminating competing vegetation where the site meets or exceeds the established minimum standards, on all land to trees.

2) Cost-share funds are authorized for:

a. Releasing desirable seedlings from competing vegetation.

_ Herbicide treatment must be completed during the active growing season of the targeted species, but no later than October 1 of the year following the previous planting season.

_ Over-the-top chemical applications for pine seedlings on all land during a planting season must be completed by the following July 1.

3) Cost-shares are not authorized for:

a. Repeated prescribed burning on the same acreage.

b. Fencing

c. Measures to protect seedlings from wildlife destruction.

4) Stand must be protected from destructive fire and destructive grazing. Grazing is permitted if recommended by a SWCD approved grazing plan which is incorporated in the forest management plan.

5) Improvements should be done in a way that preserves or improves the environment, maintains or enhances wildlife habitat and aesthetics.

6) Chemicals used in performing this practice must be federally, state and locally registered. They must be applied according to authorize registered uses, label directions, and other federal and state policies and requirements.

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D. Lifespan: This practice must ne maintained for a minimum of 10m years following the calendar year of installation, cost-share funds *must be refunded* if practice is destroyed during its lifespan.

E. Specifications:

Release: Broadcast by ground or aerial methods for the purpose of releasing planted seedling from over-topping competition, or to establish a stand of trees through natural regeneration while considering environmental needs.

F. Technical Responsibility: NRCS

G. Maximum Federal Cost-Share:

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Grade Stabilization Structure (410)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to establish the grade and control erosion in natural or artificial channels, to prevent the formation or advance of gullies, and to enhance environmental quality and reduce pollution hazards.

B. **Apply** this practice to specific problem areas on farms where runoff of substantial amounts of sediment or runoff containing pesticides or fertilizers constitutes a significant pollution hazard.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. For grade stabilization structures such as: earth embankments; mechanical spillways; full-flow or detention type structures or side-inlet structures installed to lower the water from a field elevation, a surface drain, or a waterway to a deeper channel outlet. (NOTE: Must have minimum of 1 foot over fall)

b. Only if the measures will contribute significantly to maintaining or improving soil or water quality.

c. For installing sediment retention structures on public roadsides only where such structures are essential to solve a farm-based pollution or conservation problem.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for:

a. Irrigation structures which are part of a distribution system for irrigation water.

b. Structures designed to control the rate of flow or to regulate the water levels in channels (refer to Practice 587).

D. **Lifespan** - The structures shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: The practice must meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 410, Grade Stabilization Structure; and 342, Critical Area Planting.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Base** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 90 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Grassed Waterway (412)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to reduce existing erosion and the pollution of water on land from agricultural non-point sources.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land needing permanent sod waterway to safely convey excess surface runoff water in a manner that will reduce erosion.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for site preparation, grading, shaping, filling, establishing permanent vegetative cover, and mulching. Also cost-sharing is authorized for subsurface drains that are necessary for proper functioning of the waterway.

2) The cover may consist of sod-forming grasses, legumes, mixtures of grasses and legumes, or other types of vegetative cover that will provide the needed protection from erosion.

3) Close-sown small grains, or annuals, may be used for temporary protection if followed by eligible permanent vegetative cover established by seeding or natural revegetation.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of ten years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications** - Grassed waterways will be constructed to meet applicable standards and specifications contained in the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, 412, Grassed Waterway, and 484, Mulching.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Shares**

- **Base** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 90 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Heavy Use Area Protection (561)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to stabilize frequently and intensively used areas to improve water quality and/or prevent erosion.

B. **Apply** this practice to livestock operations on areas frequently and intensively used by animals by establishing vegetative cover, by surfacing with suitable materials, and/or by installing needed structures.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for eligible areas on livestock operations only, where it is determined suitable and needed by NRCS and is part of an overall conservation plan that protects soil, water, air, animal and plant resources. Cost-sharing is also authorized for fencing, if needed to restrict livestock traffic to the treated area (See Fence (382)).

Examples:
- Alleys that are used to move dairy animals from pasture to milking parlor.
- Foundations (pads) that are planned in conjunction with Trough or Tank (614).

2) Conservation plans must address the proper management of animal waste deposited within the treated area(s). Runoff of animal waste will be collected and treated through an animal waste treatment system or routed through a designed buffer that will properly filter animal waste prior to entering streams or water bodies.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice will be carried out according to the standards and specifications in the NRCS FOTG, Section IV; 561, Heavy Use Area Protection, and, if applicable, 382, Fence.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Irrigation Land Leveling (464)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide more effective use of precipitation and irrigation water, facilitate water conservation, and improve water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice on eligible land where reshaping of the surface to planned grades is needed to permit the application of needed soil and water conservation practices for water management, and water conservation.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized ***only*** for land currently being irrigated and for the purpose of water conservation.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for water leveling.

3) Cost-sharing is authorized **only** for land that has been irrigated for 2 of the last 5 years. Cropland fields that were historically planted to rice **are also** authorized for cost-share. Applicants must verify, by field, that the irrigation system was in place for 2 of the last 5 years. Verification may be by receipts, records, or other documents. This will be made a part of the records and certified to by the applicant.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice will be carried out according to the standards and specifications in the NRCS FOTG, Section IV; 464, Irrigation Land Leveling.

2) For land that is in Rice production, see Louisiana Bulletin No. 210-2-1 for special needs determination, survey, design, and construction check procedures.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

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Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery (447)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to conserve farm irrigation water supplies and water quality by collecting water that runs off the field surface for reuse on the farm.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land that is currently under irrigation where water conservation is needed.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized **only** for:

a. Components including ditches, pipelines, pumps, and structures that are part of a complete conservation plan for irrigation.

b. Land that has been irrigated for 2 of the last 5 years. Cropland fields that were historically planted to rice **are also** authorized for cost-share. Applicants must verify, by field, that the irrigation system was in place for 2 of the last 5 years. Verification may be by receipts, records, or other documents. This will be made a part of the records and certified to by the applicant.

c. "On Farm" tailwater recovery systems. The irrigation tailwater must be collected in on farm return channels, regulating pit or other means without allowing discharge into the public drainage system. One exception would be the case where the farm is located at the extreme upper end of a public drainage system. In this instance the public drainage could be utilized as the return conveyance mechanism, provided the public authority allows necessary modifications to the drain to allow the landowner to capture and store the tailwater. Direct modifications to public drainage systems are **not** eligible for cost-share.

d. Tailwater recovery systems that have the capability to collect, store, and reapply the irrigation tailwater from one irrigation set. The primary method for temporary storage of the tailwater is an irrigation pit or regulating reservoir. In rice production, other methods of temporary storage may be utilized such as using fallow cuts or managing the planting dates to allow the tailwater from some cuts to be re-lifted on other cuts at the time they are being discharged. Methods of temporary storage will be properly designed and documented in the conservation plan narrative.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for:

a. Reorganizing a system if the primary purpose is to bring additional land under irrigation.

b. Portable and flexible pipe, cleaning a ditch, or installations primarily for the farm operator's convenience.

c. Reorganizing a temporary irrigation system.

d. Restoring a system which has deteriorated due to lack of maintenance during periods of non-use.

D. **Lifespan** - The system and water management plan must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the practice is destroyed during the lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: Federal cost-sharing will be applicable only when the tailwater recovery irrigation system is accomplished by following a complete detailed plan approved by, and performed under the supervision of, a technician of the NRCS. The practice must meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, as follows: 430, Irrigation Water Conveyance (Pipeline); 388, Irrigation Field Ditch; 587, Structure for Water Control; or 428, Irrigation Water Conveyance (Ditch and Canal Lining).

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Irrigation Water Conveyance (428 & 430)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to conserve irrigation water, improve water quality, control erosion, and reduce the pollution of water or land from agricultural non-point sources.

B. **Apply** this practice to *reorganize* a permanent existing system. (Permanent existing systems include wells or other sources of water with an existing delivery system of metal pipe and/or series of irrigation canals and ditches). To qualify, the practice must be on land currently under irrigation for which an adequate supply of suitable water is available, on which irrigation will be continued, and on which a significant soil or water conservation problem exists. Land irrigated from one or more systems of interconnected "on-the-farm" ditches, pipelines and other structures and appurtenances are eligible. This may include conversion of surface irrigation ditches to underground irrigation pipelines along with fittings. This practice is also applicable for distribution of waste as part of a total waste management system.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized only for *reorganizing* permanently installed systems that will remain on the farm for the lifespan established, and is in a plan or a portion of a plan approved by NRCS for reorganizing an irrigation system.

   a. Irrigation pipelines, as specified in NRCS Practices 430AA, 430DD, 430EE, and 430FF, are eligible for cost-share assistance.

   b. Cost-sharing for sprinkler systems is limited to permanent mainlines.

   c. Other required components must be carried out in other years with or without cost-sharing.

   d. Ditch and canal lining as specified in NRCS practices 428A, 428B, and 428C.

2) Cost-sharing is authorized **only** for land that has been irrigated for 2 of the last 5 years. Cropland fields that were historically planted to rice **are also** authorized for cost-share. Applicants must verify, by field, that the irrigation system was in place for 2 of the last 5 years. Verification may be by receipts, records, or other documents. This will be made a part of the records and certified to by the applicant.

3) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for:

   a. Reorganizing a system if the primary purpose is to bring additional land under irrigation.

   b. Portable and flexible pipe, cleaning a ditch, or installations primarily for the farm operator's convenience.

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c. Reorganizing a temporary irrigation system.

d. Installations to convert an existing sprinkler or overhead system to a gravity system.

e. Restoring a system which has deteriorated due to lack of maintenance during periods of non-use (such as rotation cycle for rice crops).

f. A supply ditch bringing water to or carrying water through the farm. (Pipe lines or ditches from a well owned by the producer to fields where he is interested in the crops, in a capacity other than as a water lord, will not be considered as supply ditches).

g. Cooling systems.

4) Cost-sharing is authorized for necessary components of a total waste management system.

D. **Lifespan** - The system and water management plan must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the practice is destroyed during the lifespan.

E. **Specifications** - Federal cost-sharing will be applicable only when the reorganization of the irrigation system is accomplished by the following a complete detailed plan approved by, and performed under the supervision of, a technician of the NRCS. The practice must meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, as follows: 430, Irrigation Water Conveyance - Pipeline; 388, Irrigation Field Ditch; 587, Structure for Water Control; or 428, Irrigation Water Conveyance - Ditch and Canal Lining.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share** -

Ditch and Canal Lining

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Pipeline

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Irrigation Water Management (449)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to implement rice land water management techniques and improve the quality of discharge water entering receiving bodies of water, that in addition, will prevent the discharge of water containing high concentration of agricultural pollutants.

B. **Apply** this practice to cropland planted to rice where irrigation flood water is used and discharged into water systems as part of the farming operation causing water quality problems.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized **only** for land that has been irrigated for 2 of the last 5 years. Cropland fields that were historically planted to rice **are also** authorized for cost-share. Applicants must verify, by field, that the irrigation system was in place for 2 of the last 5 years. Verification may be by receipts, records, or other documents. This will be made a part of the records and certified to by the applicant.

2) Cost-sharing is authorized for one of the following components:
   a) Option 1: Water planting in previous crop residue
   b) Option 2: Retention of flood water in a closed levee system for a specified period during and after soil disturbing activities
   c) Option 3: Clear water planting into a prepared seedbed

3) Specifications as listed in Paragraph D of this practice must be followed in order to earn cost-share assistance.

3) Cost-sharing for the rice land water quality improvement practice may be approved for no more than three years.

4) Chemicals used in performing this practice must be federally and locally registered and must be applied in accordance with authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and other federal and state policies and requirements.

D. **Specifications**

Option 1: Water planting in previous crop residue

1) Maintain previous crop residue on the soil surface.
2. Apply a recommended herbicide before planting to kill volunteer vegetation.
3) Close levees and apply flood water.
4) Hold water until rice is planted.
5) No disking of residue, water leveling, or any other mechanical soil disturbing activity is allowed.

Option 2: Retention of flood water in a closed levee system for a specified period during and after soil disturbing activities.

1) Close levees after disking or other mechanical soil disturbing activities in the fall.

2) All water leveling or other mechanical soil disturbing activities conducted after flooding must be done at least 15 days prior to the release of water to allow for settling of suspended materials.

3) After draining floodwater, apply a contact herbicide to kill winter and spring vegetation, if needed.

4) Apply floodwater and plant rice.

Option 3: Clear water planting into a prepared seedbed

1) Close levees if disking or other soil disturbing activities are done in the fall.

2) If water leveling or other soil disturbing activities are performed, the water must be held for at least 15 days to allow for settling of suspended materials.

3) Prepare a dry seedbed in the spring, close levees immediately, and apply floodwater.

4) Plant rice and release clear water.

E. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

1) Incentive payment only, not to exceed $6.00 per acre.

2) Incentive payments are limited to a maximum of three years.

3) Incentive payments will be allowed on a maximum of 300 acres per contract per year

Land Smoothing (466)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide for more effective use of precipitation and irrigation water, facilitate water conservation, and improve water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice on eligible land where depressions, mounds, and other surface irregularities interfere with the application of needed soil and water conservation and management practices.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for those lands eroding above the tolerance level (T) where the result, due to Land Smoothing, would be a significant reduction (at least 30%) in predicted erosion rates.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice will be carried out according to the design criteria for the irrigation portion of the standards and specifications in Practice 466 of the NRCS FOTG, Section IV.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Lined Waterway or Outlet (468)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide for safe disposal of runoff from other conservation practices or natural flow concentrations to control erosion.

B. **Apply** this practice to specific problem areas on farms where substantial amounts of sediments constitutes a significant pollution hazard, caused by flow concentrations creating gullies.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. For lined waterways or outlets needed to safely convey water from other conservation practices to a lower stable outlet.

b. Only if the measure will contribute significantly to maintaining or improving soil or water quality.

c. For vegetation establishment on disturbed areas.

D. **Lifespan** - The system and water management plan must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the practice is destroyed during the lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: The practice must meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical Guides, Section IV; 468, Lined Waterway or Outlet.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Mulching (484)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to conserve moisture; prevent surface compaction or crusting; reduce runoff and erosion; control weeds; and establish plant cover.

B. **Apply** this practice on soils subject to erosion that have been disturbed during installation of other EQIP practices.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing - is authorized for labor and materials as specified in NRCS practice 484.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice shall be maintained for 1 year or until permanent vegetation is established.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice shall be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications contained in Section IV of the FOTG, and Practice 484 Mulching.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Base** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 90 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Nutrient Management (590)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to supply plant nutrients for optimum forage and crop yields, minimize entry of nutrients to surface and groundwater, and to maintain or improve chemical and biological condition of the soil.

B. **Apply** this practice on eligible land where plant nutrients are applied.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to producers through incentive payments.

2) Incentive payments for Nutrient Management (590) is not allowed on the same acreage where incentive payments are made for Waste Utilization (633).[1/]

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained for one year following the calendar year of installation.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications; 590, Nutrient Management; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.
NOTE: *The earliest date to report this practice is* ***July 1st***.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

1) Incentive payment only, not to exceed $5.00 per acre.

2) Incentive payments will be allowed for a maximum of three years.

3) Incentive payments will be allowed on a maximum of 300 acres per contract per year

[1/] Where organic by-products (agricultural wastes) are used as a soil amendment either alone or in conjunction with inorganic fertilizer, refer to Waste Utilization (633) guidelines contained in this handbook.

Pasture & Hayland Planting (512)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to protect the soil and reduce the pollution of water, air, or land from agricultural or silvicultural non-point sources and establish high-quality forage.

B. **Apply** this practice to establish permanent vegetative cover only when converting cropland to pasture or hayland:

1) That is subject to water erosion

2) To improve water quality

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for fertilizer and lime, eligible seed, stolons, or green hay, seedbed preparation, and planting.

2) Cost-shares are authorized only for conversion of cropland to pasture. Cropland for this purpose is defined as land cropped at least two of the previous five years to a commodity crop (not ryegrass or other annuals planted for grazing purposes).

3) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for:

a. Clearing of rocks or other obstructions from the area to be seeded

b. Fencing

c. Converting land from a stand of manageable or partially manageable timber or pulpwood to a grass or legume cover. A "manageable stand" is defined as a stand of trees that has adequate stocking for management, good health, vigorous growth, and has not reached its optimum value.

d. Converting native pasture or range to improved pasture

4) The acreage seeded must be protected from grazing by domestic livestock until the stand is well established. Prescribed Grazing (528A) should be practiced.

5) Consideration should be given to the needs of wildlife when determinations as to seed varieties and other practice specifications are made.

6) The practice must be established by carrying out the needed operations as prescribed by the standards and specifications in Practice 512 of the FOTG.

D. **Lifespan** - The vegetative cover shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the cover during its lifespan.

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E. ***Seed***

1) Seed must meet specifications as listed in Practice 512, Standards and Specifications of the FOTG.

2) Cost-shares are applicable on a clean seed basis and limited to seeding within the ranges set forth in the Practice 512, Standards and Specifications of the FOTG.

3) Inoculation of legume seed is required.

F. **Fertilization**

1) Federal cost-sharing may be approved for an application of fertilizer within the ranges established by the Practice 512, Standards and Specification, in accordance with the requirements set forth under Part I of EQIP Handbook.

2) Up to 60 days is allowed to apply nitrogen fertilizer on fescue and other winter cover grasses.

G. **Liming**

1) For lime specifications, refer to the Louisiana Agricultural Liming Materials law

2) Liming materials should be applied and worked into the soil well in advance or at the time of seeding

H. **Maximum Federal Cost-Shares**

- **Base** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 90 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Pest Management (595)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to develop a pest management program that is environmentally acceptable, consistent with crop production goals, and reduce pesticide pollution of surface and groundwater.

B. **Apply** this practice to all land uses where pest control is needed.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to producers through incentive payments.

2) Incentive payments are only eligible on acres fro which pesticides are being applied.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained for one year following the calendar year of installation.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications; 595, Pest Management; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.
NOTE: *The earliest date to report this practice is* ***July 1st***.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

1) Incentive payment only, not to exceed $5.00 per acre.

2) Incentive payments will be allowed for a maximum of three years.

3) Incentive payments will be allowed on a maximum of 300 acres per contract per year

Pipeline (516)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to convey water for livestock.

B. **Apply** this practice where needed to effectively manage livestock.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for pipe and appurtenances, excavations, back-fillings and vegetation.

2) Cost-sharing is authorized for boring under roads. Applicable permits must be acquired by the applicant.

3) Cost-sharing is authorized for pipe diameters of 4" or less.

4) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for wells or pumps.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice must be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications contained in Section IV of the FOTG; Practice 516, Pipeline; and Practice 342, Critical Area Planting.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Pond (378)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide water for livestock and/or wildlife and to maintain or improve water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice to areas that provide water at locations which will achieve erosion control and prevent further or stop water quality impairment through better distribution of grazing or proper rotation of grazing and results in a better grassland management.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. Construction of ponds, including fencing, if needed, to protect the facility from pollution by livestock.

b. Refurbishment of existing ponds to meet NRCS standards if they were not originally constructed under a USDA program or, if technical assistance was not provided in accordance with NRCS standards at the time of construction. Additionally, if a pond has exceeded the lifespan of the practice and was constructed under a USDA program or technical assistance was provided in accordance with the standard that was in effect at the time of construction, the pond is eligible for cost share and technical assistance under EQIP

b. Necessary seeding or sodding. Dams and earth spillways must be seeded or sodded with perennial vegetation, whether or not cost-share is provided.

c. In a continuous grazing system, a producer may be eligible for cost-share on a pond or well. However, the amount cost-shared for the well cannot exceed the cost of a pond.

d. In a rotational grazing system, cost-share is allowed for a pond or well. Cost-share for pond or well will be only limited to the cost shown in the statewide cost list.

2) No cost-sharing is authorized under this practice for any installation which is:

a. PRIMARILY for the use of recreation, fire control, dry lot feeding, corrals, barns, or crop or orchard spraying.

b. For the purpose of providing water for the farm or ranch headquarters.

3) Ponds constructed or refurbished for the purpose of wildlife watering facilities will be eligible for cost-share assistance when there is no other water source such as a lake, pond, or stream within one-half mile of the proposed site.

D. **Lifespan** - The system shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**:

1) Ponds - The structure must be constructed to meet the requirements of applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, as follows: 378, Pond. Seeding or sodding shall be performed in accordance with specifications for 342, Critical Area Planting.

2) Fencing - Fencing must be constructed according to specifications in NRCS Practice 382.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share** -

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate

Vernon Parish

- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates
- Excavated ponds will have a minimum volume of 1000 cubic yards and a maximum volume of 2000 cubic yards for excavated and embankment ponds. A waiver to the minimum volume can be granted by the area engineer on a case by case basis and must be in writing.

Pond Sealing or Lining (521)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to reduce seepage losses in ponds to an acceptable level.

B. **Apply** this practice where water loss from a pond through leakage will be of such proportion as to prevent the pond from fulfilling its planned purposes or where leakage will damage land or plant resources, cause waste of water, or environmental problems.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

   a. Ponds that meet NRCS standards and specifications for: 359, Waste Treatment Lagoons; 313, Waste Storage Facilities; 378, Ponds.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for ponds built under any USDA program within the previous 10 years.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for 15 or 20 years depending on the method of sealing following the calendar year of installation (see EQIP Manuel for details). Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: This practice must meet the requirements of NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 521, Pond Sealing or Lining.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share** -

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Precision Land Forming (462)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide more effective use of precipitation, reduce erosion, and improve water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice on eligible land where reshaping of the surface to planned grades is needed to permit the application of needed soil and water conservation practices for water management, erosion control, and water quality.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized ***only*** for land where reductions in slopes are needed for erosion control and water quality.

2) Cost-sharing is authorized for those lands eroding above tolerance level (T) where the results, due to Precision Land Forming, would be a significant reduction (at least 30%) in predicted erosion rates.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice will be carried out according to the standards and specifications in the NRCS FOTG, Section IV; 462, Precision Land Forming.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Prescribed Burning (338)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to control undesirable vegetation, prepare sites for planting or seeding; control plant disease; reduce fire hazards; improve wildlife habitat, forage production and forage quantity; and facilitate distribution of grazing and browsing animals.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible lands where needed to facilitate the management of plants and animals for environmental purposes.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. site preparation for tree planting - refer to Practice 490, Forest Site Preparation.

b. site preparation for seeding where cultivation is not required.

c. controlling plant competition, undesirable vegetation, and excess accumulation of fuel.

d. promote the growth of desirable forage for wildlife and livestock.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice has a 5 year lifespan and is limited to one time during the life of a 5-year contract or twice during the life of a 10-year contract.

E. **Specifications** - This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications contained in Section IV of the NRCS FOTG, Practice 338, Prescribed Burning.

NOTE: Producer needs to be notified of their responsibility to obtain "burn plan" as defined by state or local laws.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Prescribed Grazing (528A)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to prolong life of desirable forage species, protect soil, and protect water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible pastureland, hayland, rangeland and native pasture.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to producers through incentive payments.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained for 5 years following the calendar year of installation.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications; 528A, Prescribed Grazing; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.
NOTE: *The earliest date to report this practice is **July 1st**.*

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

1) Incentive payment only, not to exceed $5.00 per acre.

2) Incentive payments will be allowed for a maximum of three years.

3) Incentive payments will be allowed on a maximum of 300 acres per contract per year

Range Planting (550)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to protect the soil and reduce the pollution of water, air, or land from agricultural or silvicultural non-point sources and establish adapted perennial vegetation such as grasses, forbs, and legumes.

B. **Apply** this practice to establish permanent vegetative cover only when converting cropland to rangeland:
1) That is subject to water erosion
2) To improve water quality
3) To improve wildlife habitat
4) To provide forages for livestock

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for fertilizer and lime, eligible seed, seedbed preparation, and planting.

2) Cost-shares are authorized only for conversion of cropland to rangeland. Cropland for this purpose is defined as land cropped at least two of the previous five years to a commodity crop (not ryegrass or other annuals planted for grazing purposes).

3) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for:

a. Clearing of rocks or other obstructions from the area to be seeded

b. Fencing

c. Converting land from a stand of manageable or partially manageable timber or pulpwood to a grass, forb, or legume cover. A "manageable stand" is defined as a stand of trees that has adequate stocking for management, good health, vigorous growth, and has not reached its optimum value.

d. Converting existing pasture, hayland, or other grass, forb, or legume cover to rangeland.

4) The acreage seeded must be protected from burning and grazing by domestic livestock until the stand is well established. Reference the management criteria of Practice 550 of the FOTG. Prescribed Grazing (528A) should be practiced.

5) Consideration should be given to the needs of wildlife when determinations as to seed varieties and other practice specifications are made.

6) The practice must be established by carrying out the needed operations as prescribed by the standards and specifications in Practice 550 of the FOTG.

RANGE PLANTING 550

D. **Lifespan** - The vegetative cover shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the cover during its lifespan.

E. ***Seed***

1) Seed must meet specifications as listed in Practice 550, Standards and Specifications of the FOTG.

2) Cost-shares are applicable on a pure live seed basis and limited to seeding within the ranges set forth in the Practice 550, Standards and Specifications of the FOTG.

3) Inoculation of legume seed is recommended. Contact state office technical staff (Plant Material Specialist or Wildlife Biologist) for recommended inoculants of native species.

F. **Fertilization**

1) Federal cost-sharing may be approved for an application of fertilizer within the ranges established by the Practice 550, Standards and Specification, in accordance with the requirements set forth under Part I of EQIP Handbook.

G. **Liming**

1) For lime specifications, refer to the Agricultural Liming Materials law

2) Liming materials should be applied and worked into the soil well in advance or at the time of seeding

H. **Maximum Federal Cost-Shares**

- **Base** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 90 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Residue Management (329)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to reduce sheet and rill erosion, maintain or improve soil organic matter content and tilth, conserve soil moisture, and provide food and cover for wildlife.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land for environmental benefits.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to landowners through incentive payments.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained during the cropping year as described in NRCS FOTG, Section IV, Practice 329.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice will be carried out in accordance with applicable NRCS standards and specifications contained in Section IV of the FOTG:

No-till and Strip-till	329A
Mulch-till	329B
Ridge-till	329C

(**NOTE**: *The earliest date to report this practice is* ***March 1st****; for fall planted crops, the date is* ***September 1st****.)*

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- No-Till and Strip-Till (329A)
  - Incentive payment only, not to exceed $15.00 per acre.
- Mulch-Till (329B)
  - Incentive payment only, not to exceed $10.00 per acre.
- Ridge-Till (329C)
  - Incentive payment only, not to exceed $12.00 per acre.

* Incentive payments will be allowed on a maximum of 300 acres per contract per year

- Incentive payments will be allowed for a maximum of 3 years

Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to remove, reduce, or buffer the effects of nutrients, sediment, organic matter, and other pollutants prior to entry into surface water and ground water recharge systems.

- To create shade to lower water temperatures which will improve habitat for aquatic organisms.
- To provide a source of detritus and woody debris for aquatic organisms and wildlife habitat.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land adjacent to permanent or intermittent streams, lakes, rivers, ponds, wetlands, and areas with groundwater recharge.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for Forest Site Preparation (490), Tree/Shrub Establishment (612), Filter Strips (393), and Forest Stand Improvement (666).

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice must be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications contained in Section IV of the FOTG:

Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
Forest Site Preparation (490)
Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
Filter Strip (393)
Forest Stand Improvement (666)

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

1) Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

a. Pine

- **Base** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 90 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

b. Hardwood

- **Base** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 90 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

c. Direct Seeding

(1) Hardwood

- **Base** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 90 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

2) Forest Site Preparation (490)

a. **Silvicultural Treatments for Artificial Regeneration:**

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

(1) Light - Limited site preparation to prepare a seedbed favorable to artificial regeneration accomplished by disking, brush cutting, mowing, and/or scalping or sub-soiling. Chemical deadening if less than 300 diameter inches per acre or chemical application for herbaceous weed control.

(2) Medium - Site preparation for artificial regeneration accomplished by chopping. Chemical application by ground or aerial methods. Injection with greater than 300 diameter inches per acre.

(3) Prescribed Burn - Site preparation for artificial regeneration applicable to areas completely cut-over with sufficient fuel to carry a fire of such intensity that no other method is necessary. This includes areas damaged by natural disasters such as bark beetle infestations, tornadoes, hurricanes, ice and hail, and areas where all merchantable timber has been removed.

(4) Release - Chemical deadening if less than 300 diameter inches per acre. If greater than 300 diameter inches per acre. Broadcast applications by ground or aerial methods for the purpose of releasing planted seedlings from over topping competition See release on previous page for artificial regeneration.

- Over-the-top chemical applications for pine seedlings in pastures/fields during a planting season must be completed by the following July 1.
- Prescribed burns may be performed in conjunction with any of the above site preparation methods.
- The cost-share rates for the methods described above include the cost of prescribed burning performed in conjunction with the components.
- Cost-share payments are limited to one site preparation component on the same acreage.

Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to remove, reduce, or buffer the effects of nutrients, sediment, organic matter, and other pollutants prior to entry into surface water and ground water recharge systems and to provide wildlife habitat.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land adjacent to watercourses or on the fringe of water bodies where the natural plant community was dominated by herbaceous vegetation and the plant community has been converted to cropland.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-share is authorized only for conversion of cropland to riparian herbaceous cover. Cropland for this purpose is defined as land cropped at least two of the previous five years to a commodity crop (not ryegrass or other annuals planted for grazing purposes).

2) Cost-share is authorized for Range Planting (550).

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice must be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications contained in Section IV of the FOTG:

Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
Range Planting (550)

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

1) Range Planting (550)

- **Base** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 90 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Roof Runoff Management (558)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to prevent runoff from flowing across concentrated waste areas and barnyards to reduce pollution and erosion, improve water quality, and protect the environment.

B. **Apply** this practice where roof runoff is included in an overall plan for a waste management system.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized only where roof runoff management is part of an overall plan for a waste management system.

2) Cost-sharing is authorized for erosion resistant channels, subsurface drain with rock filled trench, gutters, downspouts, and appurtenances, and outlets.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of its installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications; 558, Roof Runoff Management; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Sediment Basin (350)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to preserve the capacity of reservoirs, ditches, canals, diversions, and waterways; to trap sediment; and to reduce or abate pollution by providing basins for deposition and storage of silt, sand, agricultural wastes and other detritus.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land where treatment of the sediment source is impractical and where a sediment basin offers the most practical solution to the problem.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:
   a. excavation, structures, and rip-rap.
   b. necessary seeding or sodding.
   c. fencing needed to protect the facility from livestock.

D. **Lifespan** - The sediment shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) Sediment Basin - The structure must be constructed to meet the requirements of applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, as follows: 350, Sediment Basin; 378, Pond; and 410, Grade Stabilization Structure. Seeding or sodding shall be performed in accordance with specifications for 342, Critical Area Planting.
2) Fencing - Fencing must be constructed according to specifications in NRCS Practice 382.
3) Structures - Structures must be constructed in accordance with standards and specifications in NRCS Practice 410, Grade Stabilization Structure.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

1) Sediment Basin
2) Fencing - Refer to Practice 382, Fence in the EQIP Handbook.
3) Seeds - Refer to Part I of the EQIP Handbook.
4) Fertilizer and Lime - Refer to Part I of the EQIP Handbook.
5) Other materials as needed and recommended by the NRCS technician.
6) The applicant must furnish sales receipts and/or other supporting evidence showing cost of materials and other charges.

Shallow Water Management for Wildlife (646)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to keep, make, or improve habitat for waterfowl, fur bearers, and other wildlife.

B. **Apply** this practice to agricultural lands and moist soil areas where water can be impounded or regulated by diking, ditching, or flooding. Levees must be closed immediately following harvest in the fall and must remain closed until March 1.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to producers through incentive payments.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice must be maintained for the season as defined in NRCS FOTG, Section IV, Practice 646.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS FOTG, Section IV; 646, Shallow Water Management for Wildlife.
NOTE: *The earliest date to report this practice is* ***April 1st***.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

1) Incentive payments only, not to exceed ***$5.00 per acre and not to exceed 100 acres per contract per year***.

2) Incentive payments will be allowed for a maximum of 3 years.

Streambank & Shoreline Protection (580)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to stabilize or protect banks of streams, lakes, estuaries or excavated channels.

B. **Apply** this practice to natural or excavated channels where the streambanks are susceptible to erosion and to shorelines where the problem can be solved with relatively simple structures or vegetation.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. removal of fallen trees, stumps, and debris
b. removal of trees and brush that adversely affect the growth of desirable bank vegetation
c. reduction of the slope of streambanks to provide a suitable condition for vegetative protection or the installation of structural measures.
d. placement of rock with filter blanket
e. deflectors constructed of posts, piling, fencing, rock or other materials
f. fencing for protection from damage from livestock or vehicular traffic
g. vegetation for erosion control
h. bulkheads
i. revetments
j. groins
k. vegetation

D. **Lifespan** - This system shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the farmer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: This practice must be constructed to meet the requirements of the standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical guide, Section IV; 580, Streambank & Shoreline Protection.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75% of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Structure for Water Control (587)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to control the stage, discharge, distribution or delivery of water in open channels or water use area.

B. **Apply** this practice wherever a permanent structure is needed as in integral part of an existing water system, or Shallow Water Management for Wildlife (646).

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for applicable structures for systems identified in paragraph "B" above.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for irrigation structures which are part of a distribution system ***unless*** it specifically is installed for improving irrigation efficiency or water conservation.

3) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for culverts installed for the purpose of providing vehicle or equipment access.

4) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for interior structures for water management for rice or aquaculture production.

D. **Lifespan** - The structures shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: The practice must meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in Section IV or the NRCS Technical Guide, Structure for Water Control 587, and Critical Area Planting, 342.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Vernon Parish

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide control of erosion on cropland and reduce pollution of water, land, or air from agricultural non-point sources.

B. **Apply** this practice to cropland subject to erosion from water runoff.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. Terraces and the necessary leveling and filling to permit installation of an effective system.

b. Removal of turnrows, or earth embankments and necessary leveling and filling when it is determined that the removal of such objects or leveling and filling are necessary to the establishment of an effective terrace system.

c. Materials and installation of pipe and other outlets.

d. Converting the present system to a new system ***ONLY*** if the present system is not serving its intended conservation purpose. Cost-sharing is not authorized for either of the following:

(1) to maintain the present system

(2) if the sole purpose is converting the present system because of a change in cropping patterns or equipment the farmer used.

e. Seed, fertilizer and lime

2) Contour farming must be practiced on the area to be terraced. Contour farming is authorized for incentive payment only.

3) Necessary protective outlets or grassed waterways must be installed, vegetated, and stabilized before terraces are constructed.

4) The removal of turnrows and earth embankments should be considered necessary if they interfere with the establishment of vegetative waterways, obstruct or prevent obtaining terrace and row alignment, or prevent the construction of uniform terrace channels.

5) Obstructions to be removed must be leveled and smoothed to give even, uniform slopes and must not require a depth of cut and fill to strip all topsoil from any appreciable area.

D. **Lifespan** - The system shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications** - The structure must be constructed to meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, Section IV; 600, Terrace; 466, Land Smoothing (Land to Be Terraced); and 342, Critical Area Planting.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to establish a stand of trees in a timber planting that will enhance environmental benefits.

B. **Apply** this practice for the conversion of pastureland or cropland to trees.

C. **Eligibility**

To be eligible for C/S, this practice shall:

- improve environmental benefits to an acceptable level
- prevent degradation of environmental benefits from recurring
- be included in the approved tree planting plan

D. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) A forest management plan developed by NRCS is required to be eligible for cost-share funds.

2) Cost-share funds are authorized for site preparation on cropland or pastureland, only where it is essential to permit planting desirable tree species. Technical assistance must be used to determine the suitability of the land for site preparation and the measures necessary to prevent the degradation of the site by soil erosion.

3) Cost-share funds are ***not*** authorized for:
   - Requests for planting trees on more than 1,000 acres
   - Planting orchard or ornamental trees
   - Planting for Christmas tree production
   - Fencing
   - Measures to protect seedlings from wildlife destruction

4) Plantings must be protected from destructive fire and destructive grazing. Grazing is permitted if recommended by a SWCD approved grazing plan which is incorporated in the forest management plan.

5) In the event of severe competition from weeds or brush, measures should be taken to release the planted stock.

6) Seedlings will be one-year nursery stock. Cuttings should be taken from 1-3 year old stock. Seedlings must conform to minimum standards established by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

7) There will be a survival of at least 350 well distributed pine seedlings, or 200 hardwood seedlings or cuttings per acre after the first growing season.

8) On-site inspections will be made ***during*** the planting operations to determine compliance of the planter and quality of the seedlings.

9) Chemicals used in performing this practice must be federally, state, and locally registered, and must be applied in accordance with authorized registered uses, label directions, and other federal and state requirements and policies.

10) Consideration must be given to protecting the resource base and the environment.

11) Seed sources - Refer to Exhibit 1, Part I of Chapter II of the EQIP Handbook.

E. **Lifespan** - This practice shall be maintained for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of establishment. Cost-share funds must be refunded if the practice is destroyed during this lifespan.

F. **Specifications**

1) Pine seedlings shall be planted on a proven and acceptable spacing which will yield an initial density of 600 to 900 trees per acre. Hardwood species and cypress shall be planted on a proven and acceptable spacing which will yield an initial density of 250 to 550 trees per acre.

2) Seedling roots and cuttings must be kept cool and moist until planted. Seedlings may be either machine or hand planted. An ample hole should be made to hold all roots without crowding or J-rooting and the soil should be packed firmly around the roots. A minimum amount of root pruning is allowed on hardwood seedlings. Pine seedlings should be set at the same depth in the soil as they were prior to lifting from nursery beds. Hardwood seedlings should be set in the soil with the root collar at or slightly below the ground line. Cuttings should be a minimum of 20 inches in length, planted with no more than 2 inches exposed above the ground line.

3) Chemical application for site preparation: Herbicides used in this treatment must be labeled for forestry use and rates per acre must be approved by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. Minimal acceptable rates will be on file at the local LDAF offices. Over-the-top chemical applications for pine seedlings in pastures/fields during a planting season must be completed by the following July 1.

4) Sub-soiling as a component to silvicultural treatment must be performed when determined needed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and included in the forest management plan. Sub-soiling of land prior to planting shall be on centers spaced the same as tree planting space to a minimum depth of 12 inches, be performed between July 1 - December 31, and a minimum of 30 days prior to planting. Seedlings, cuttings, and seed will be planted in the furrows made by sub-soiling.

TREE/SHRUB ESTABLISHMENT 612

5) Plant and Release: Trees can be planted followed by an approved herbicide application considered safe for the release of newly planted pine. Herbicide recommendations are to be made by a person knowledgeable in forest herbicide use and all labels must be followed. The herbicide treatment must be completed during the active growing season of the targeted species, but no late than October 1 or the year following the previous planting season.

G. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- For land use conversion (cropland or pastureland planted to trees)
  - **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
  - **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- For tree planting in riparian zone
  - **Base** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
  - **LR / BF/R** - 90 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

H. **Forest Site Preparation (490)** - Refer to practice 490

Underground Outlet (620)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to dispose of excess water from terraces, diversions, surface drains, or other concentrations without causing damage by erosion or flooding.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land where: excessive surface water needs to be disposed of; a buried outlet is needed for diversions, terraces, water and sediment control basins, or similar practices; and where surface outlets are impractical because of stability problems, climatic conditions, land use, or equipment traffic.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for earthwork, pipe, and vegetation.

D. **Lifespan** - The structures shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: The practice must meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 620, Underground Outlet.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share** -

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Use Exclusion (472)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to protect, maintain or improve the quantity and quality of plant and animal resources and maintain cover to protect the soil resource.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land where forest reproduction, soil hydrologic values, stream water quality, existing or planted vegetation can be damaged by livestock.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for construction of fencing where livestock are present and have the potential to damage plant resources.

2) Cost-sharing is *not* authorized for replacing or repairing existing fences.

D. **Lifespan** – The practice must be maintained for the life of the contract.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications; 472, Use Exclusion; 472 & 382, Fence; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.

E. Maximum Federal Cost-Sharing

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

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Waste Storage Facility (313)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide temporary storage of solid and/or liquid agricultural waste to prevent the pollution of water, land, and air.

B. **Apply** this practice to areas on eligible land where agricultural waste from the farm constitutes a significant pollution hazard.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) The practice is designed to provide facilities for temporary storing and handling agricultural waste and controlling surface run-off water to permit the recycling of the waste onto the land in a way that will abate pollution that would otherwise result from existing farming operations.

2) Cost-sharing is limited to solving the pollution problems where the farming operation causing pollution from agricultural waste is part of a total farming operation.

3) Cost-share funds are authorized for:

a. Only for waste storage facilities, waste storage tanks, waste stacking facilities, waste settling facilities, and composting facilities, land shaping, and similar measures needed as part of a system on the farm to manage agricultural wastes, and ***only*** for agricultural wastes produced ***on*** the applicant's farming operation.

b. For:

(1) Permanently installed equipment needed as an integral part of the system, such as buried main lines to carry waste from the storage facility to the field.

(2) Fencing and vegetative cover, including mulching needed to protect the facility.

(3) Leveling and filling to permit installing an effective system.

4) Cost-sharing is authorized only if the facilities will contribute significantly to maintaining or improving the soil or water quality.

5) All state laws, rules and regulations governing the use of waste storage facilities shall be strictly adhered to. The farm owner will be responsible for securing necessary permits where required.

6) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized:

a. For waste facilities to store, handle, or dispose of chemicals used in the farming operation. Chemicals include insecticides, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and other chemicals used in the farming operation.

b. For:

(1) Portable pumps or other portable equipment (such as honey-wagons, manure spreaders, portable big gun irrigators)

(2) Buildings or modifications of buildings.

(3) Spreading agricultural wastes on the land.

c. For the portion of the cost of agricultural waste structures installed under or attached to buildings which serve as part of the building or its foundation.

d. For agricultural waste facilities that do not meet local or state regulations.

e. For installation primarily for the operator's convenience.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) The practice must meet the requirements of NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 313, Waste Storage Facility; 317, Composting Facility, and 382, Fence. Seeding or sodding shall be performed in accordance with specifications for 342, Critical Area Planting.

2) Where recommended by the supervising technician, the minimum and maximum application range of fertilizer shall be 36 to 80 pounds of plant food (nitrogen, phosphate, potash) per acre.

3) Fencing

a. Where a fence substantially meets or exceeds these minimum requirements, the NRCS technician may approve the fence as meeting the practice requirements.

b. See Part I of the EQIP Handbook.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

1) Fencing: See Practice 382, Fence of EQIP Handbook

2) Seeds: See Part I of EQIP Handbook [1/]

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3) Fertilizer: See Part I of EQIP Handbook

4) Waste Storage Ponds:

a. New Facility

- **Base** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 90 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

* cubic yards of earth moved in excavating the storage pond and a borrow area, if required.

b. Modified Facility:

- **Base** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 90 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

c. Earthen Liner:

1) Placement and Compaction.

2) Loading and hauling of approved earthen liner material from a remote on farm borrow area

3) Purchase and delivery of off farm approved earthen liner material

4) Addition of Bentonite

d. Waste Distribution Equipment:

See Irrigation Water Conveyance 428 & 430 in EQIP Handbook.

[1/] ***Annuals are eligible for cost-sharing only when used as nurse crops in conjunction with perennials.***

Waste Treatment Lagoon (359)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to biologically treat organic waste, reduce pollution and protect the environment.

B. **Apply** this practice to areas on eligible land where agricultural waste from the farm constitutes a significant pollution hazard.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) The practice is designed to provide a lagoon for storing, treating, and handling agricultural waste and controlling surface runoff water to permit the recycling of the waste onto the land in a way that will abate pollution that would otherwise result from existing farming operations.

2) Cost-sharing is limited to solving the pollution problems where the farming operation causing pollution from agricultural waste is part of a total farming operation, and ***only*** for treating agricultural wastes produced ***on*** the applicant's farming operation.

3) Cost-sharing is authorized:

a. Only for aerobic and anaerobic lagoons, and similar facilities as well as diversions, channels, waterways, outlet structures, plumbing, pipelines, land-shaping, and similar measures needed as part of a system on the farm to manage agricultural wastes.

b. For:

(1) Permanently installed equipment needed as an integral part of the system such as: permanently installed pumps, and buried mainlines to carry waste from the lagoon to the field.

(2) Fencing and vegetative cover, including mulching needed to protect the facility.

(3) Leveling and filling to permit installing an effective system.

4) For refurbishment of existing lagoons to meet NRCS standards, including clean-out if required in order to bring the lagoon within NRCS practice standards and specifications. Cost-sharing for Lagoon refurbishment is limited to lagoons that were not constructed under a USDA program or, if technical assistance was not provided in accordance with NRCS standards at the time of construction. However, if the lagoon was built under the above conditions and has exceeded the lifespan of the practice, refurbishment would be eligible for cost share.

5) Cost-sharing is authorized only if the waste treatment lagoon facilities will contribute significantly to maintaining or improving the soil or water quality.

6) All state laws, rules and regulations governing the use of waste treatment lagoons shall be strictly adhered to. The farm owner will be responsible for securing necessary permits where required.

7) Dams or levees must be seeded or sodded. Cost-shares are authorized.

8) All work, including the delivery ramp, must be completed prior to paying cost-shares earned.

9) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized:

   a. For waste facilities to store, handle, or dispose of chemicals used in the farming operation. Chemicals include insecticides, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and other chemicals used in the farming operation.

   b. For:

      (1) Portable pumps or other portable equipment (such as honey-wagons, manure spreaders, portable big gun irrigators.

      (2) Buildings or modifications of buildings.

      (3) Spreading agricultural wastes on the land.

   c. For the portion of the cost of agricultural waste structures installed under or attached to buildings which serve as part of the building or its foundation.

   d. For agricultural waste facilities that do not meet local or state regulations.

   e. For installation primarily for the operator's convenience.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the farmer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) The practice must meet the requirements of NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 359, Waste Treatment Lagoon; 430, Irrigation Water Conveyance - Pipeline. Seeding or sodding shall be performed in accordance with specifications for 342, Critical Area Planting.

2) Fencing

   a. Where a fence substantially meets or exceeds these minimum requirements, the NRCS technician may approve the fence as meeting the practice requirements.

   b. See Practice 392, Fence in the EQIP Handbook

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Base** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate

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- **LR / BF/R** - 90 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

1) Earthen Liner:

   a. Placement and Compaction. Existing on site material –

   b. Loading and hauling of approved earthen liner material from a remote on farm borrow area

   c. Purchase and delivery of off farm approved earthen liner material

   d. Addition of Bentonite

2) Fencing - See Practice 382, Fence of the EQIP Handbook

3) Seeds - See Part I of EQIP Handbook [1/]

4) Fertilizer - See Part I of EQIP Handbook

5) Waste Distribution Equipment:

   a. See Irrigation Water Conveyance 428 & 430 in EQIP Handbook

8) Spoil Spreading

[1/] ***Annuals are eligible for cost-sharing only when used as nurse crops in conjunction with perennials.***

Waste Utilization (633)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to safely use agricultural wastes to provide fertility for crops, forage or fiber production; to improve or maintain soil structure; and to protect water resources.

B. **Apply** this practice on soils and vegetation suitable for the use of waste as a fertilizer.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided by incentive payments only.

2) Incentive payments are authorized for removal of supernate (liquid) which is a recurring requirement to maintain the water level at the design elevation of the facility.

3) Incentive payments are authorized for waste utilization as part of the total waste management system where a new facility for waste management is constructed (waste treatment lagoon, waste storage facility, or composting facility).

4) Incentive payments are authorized for the proper use of agricultural wastes generated ***on*** or ***off*** the applicant's farming operation, provided the applicant has control of the land where wastes are to be spread, and waste utilization is part of the conservation plan. Application rates shall be based on soil sampling of fields where agricultural wastes are applied. Additionally, agricultural wastes shall be sampled and analyzed well in advance of land application so that test results will be available to use in calibrating the spreader. Local county extension agents are available to assist with soil and waste sampling and spreader calibration.

5) Incentive payments are ***not*** authorized for waste utilization that is part of waste management system where the producer has previously received federal financial assistance for the installation of a waste treatment lagoon, waste storage facility, or composting facility.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice will be maintained for one year following the calendar year of installation.

E. **Specifications**: This practice must meet the requirements of the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 633, Waste Utilization.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Shares**

1) Incentive payment only, not to exceed $10.00 per acre.

2) Incentive payments will be allowed for a maximum of three years.

3) Incentive payments will be allowed on a maximum of 300 acres per contract per year

Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to reduce watercourse and gully erosion, trap sediment, reduce and manage onsite and downstream runoff, and improve downstream water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice on eligible land where watercourse and gully erosion are a problem, runoff and sediment damage land and improvements, and where adequate outlets are available or can be provided.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for earthwork, vegetation, and outlets.

2) This practice must be part of a conservation plan that includes conservation practices to control sheet and rill erosion.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: The practice must meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in Section IV or the NRCS Technical Guide; 638, Water and Sediment Control Basin; 342, Critical Area Planting; 620, Underground Outlet; 600, Terraces.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

1) Seeds, Fertilizer, and Lime - Refer to Part I of the EQIP Handbook.

2) Outlet - Refer to Practice 620, Underground Outlet.

Watering Facility (614)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide watering facilities for livestock at selected locations that will protect vegetative cover through proper distribution of grazing or through better grassland management for erosion control.

B. **Apply** this practice where there is a need for new or improved watering sites to permit the desired level of grassland management, to reduce health hazards for livestock, and to reduce livestock waste in streams.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized only for trough, tanks, foundations, and appurtenances that are a necessary part of a grazing management plan.

2) Authorized watering facilities may be designed to facilitate a three (3) day water supply.

3) Cost-sharing is ***not*** allowed under this practice for wells, pumps or pipelines (Refer to Practice 516 and 642).

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications; 614, Watering Facility; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG. If foundations (pads) are planned, reference NRCS standards and specifications; 561, Heavy Use Area Protection; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

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- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Well (642)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide water for livestock, facilitate the proper use of vegetation on rangeland and pasture, and maintain or improve water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice to installations that provide water at locations which will achieve erosion control and prevent further or stop water quality impairment through better distribution of grazing or proper rotation of grazing and results in a better grassland management.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:
   a. Construction or deepening of wells, only where this is the least cost alternative for providing livestock water ***(refer to {378} Pond or {614} Trough or Tank)***.
   b. Pumping equipment (except for artesian wells).
   c. In a continuous grazing system, a producer may be eligible for cost-share on a pond or well. However, the amount cost-shared for the well cannot exceed the cost of a pond.
   d. In a rotational grazing system, cost-share is allowed for a pond or well. Cost-share for pond or well will be only limited to the cost shown in the statewide cost list.
2) Where ground water quality is such that corrosion of well screens or points is serious, suitable corrosion resistant metals must be used.
3) The well must furnish an adequate supply of water.
4) **No cost-sharing is authorized under this practice for any installation which is:**
   a. PRIMARILY for the use of recreation, wildlife, dry lot feeding, corrals, or barns.
   b. For the purpose of providing water for the farm or ranch headquarters.

D. **Lifespan** - The system shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) Water Wells - This practice will be carried out according to the standards and specifications in the NRCS FOTG, Section IV; 642, Well; and all local, state, and federal laws.

2). Special Responsibilities

   a) Any contractor who drills a well must be licensed with the State of Louisiana, Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD).

   b) All wells shall be registered with DOTD in accordance with state laws.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate

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- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates

Well Decommissioning (351)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to protect water quality by preventing contamination of ground water from surface runoff into abandoned water wells.

B. **Apply** this practice to any drilled or hand-dug abandoned water well that is located on farmland or a farmstead that has been permanently discontinued from use and threatens to contaminate or pollute the groundwater aquifer.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Abandoned water wells must be plugged according to Federal, State, and local health and environmental laws.

2) Priority shall be given to wells that are contaminating aquifers used for drinking water.

3) This practice is only authorized for drilled or hand-dug abandoned water wells.

4) This practice is not allowed for water wells drilled at an oil or gas drilling site to supply water for drilling activities.

5) The participant must:

a. Secure all necessary permits without C/S assistance before starting construction of the practice

b. Provide a copy of any forms, logs, or reports required by Federal, State, or local well-plugging laws to the designated technician as part of the practice completion certification

c. Ensure that the surface area disturbed during practice establishment is seeded to vegetative cover without C/S assistance.

6) Cost-sharing is authorized for the following:

a. labor costs to remove pumps, associated piping, ungrouted liner pipe, and other obstacles that must be removed before the well is plugged.

***Important*: All debris must be disposed of according to state and local laws and regulations without C/S assistance.**

b. chlorine used for disinfectant
c. material needed to fill and seal the well, such as, cement, bentonite, or other acceptable materials
d. cement or clay materials needed to cap dug wells
e. costs to back fill dug wells with surface materials to the surface
f. other similar materials
g. necessary labor costs to plug the well

7) Cost-sharing is not authorized for the following:

a. plugging test or exploratory wells or holes, which are considered the responsibility of the landowner and should have been properly plugged immediately after completion of all testing, sampling, or other operations for which the well or hole was originally intended.
b. plugging drive (punched) water wells, which are wells in which the screen section of the casing is driven into the water formation.
c. plugging oil or gas wells
d. fees charged for water quality testing.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice shall be maintained for a minimum of 20 years after the calendar year that the well is plugged.

E. **Specifications** - The practice must meet the requirements of applicable standards and specifications in NRCS Practice 351.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- **Base** - 50 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- **LR / BF/R** - 75 % of the actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum rate
- See 2004 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost rates