

## **EROSION/NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

Erosion/Nutrient Management Measures means a planned system for reducing soil erosion and nutrient runoff from cropland to improve water quality. System components may include:

### Policies

1. For vegetative practices and other practices which may include vegetation as an element.
  - (a) Mulch includes the cost of materials and labor installing any approved mulch material from the N.C. Technical Guide, Section IV, standard 342-II, at a rate of 2 tons per acre. Use of clean small grain straw is highly recommended. The average cost used is based on 125 bales of small grain straw per acre at 32 lbs. per bale. Hydro-mulch used by hydro-seeders is not to be used as a substitute for small grain mulch at any rate.
  - (b) Where mulch netting is required, use as needed 10, 12, or 15 feet wide netting. The Area Office will decide if respective NRCS Area is approved to use 10 feet wide netting and overlap in channels exceeding 10 feet (any overlap must exceed 18 inches). Netting must be wide enough to cover at least 6 inches from the bottom of the waterway up the side slopes. Price includes cost of netting, staples, and labor for installation.
  - (c) Where mulch is not required, the use of netting is at the discretion of the person planning the practice.
  - (d) Fescue is used as base vegetation for establishing average cost. Other vegetative types may be used if they meet site specification but must use base average cost developed for fescue. The only exception to this is for installations for critical area planting or stream bank plantings where native vegetation is permissible.
  - (e) Cooperator may use other than 10-10-10 fertilizer and the NC Agriculture Cost Share Program will pay 75% of \$.22 per lb. of plant food based on soil test.
  - (f) Cost share payments for stripcropping or cropland conversion are restricted to bulk rates.
2. Animal guards are required for all practices which have a subsurface drain outlet grassed waterway, diversion, rock-lined waterway, etc.). These guards are needed to satisfy the subsurface drain standard.
3. Structural geotextiles shall meet the requirements of "Construction Specification 17 - Geotextiles". Drainage geotextiles shall meet the requirements of N.C. Technical Guide, Section IV Practice Standard 606, as shown in paragraph 606-8-5.
4. Technical staff shall have the responsibility for determining appropriate set backs for cost shared fencing in accordance with Agriculture Cost Share Program policy and NRCS standards, if applicable. (See Section V for guidance relative to fencing.)
5. Except for Supervisors' contracts, Districts may approve contracts for vegetative practices in the amount of \$3,500 or less, limited to 1 per cooperator per year. Installation may begin on these contracts prior to the District's receipt of Division approval. However, Districts assume any responsibility for accuracies in the CPOs.

## Agriculture Cost Share Program

6. Land smoothing for stripcropping, terraces, diversions, and grassed waterways is intended to be used only where existing terraces, diversions or other minor landscape features must be removed prior to initiating a terrace, stripcropping, diversion or grassed waterway system.
7. For other components required as an integral part of a BMP, use cost values for the appropriate component provided elsewhere in the average cost.
8. The grading minimum is to be used in a cost share contract when the normal grading rate would not sufficiently cover the cost of equipment use at the site (i.e., covers the cost of transporting equipment to a site; only one minimum can be used per contiguous area).
9. If a cooperater fails to achieve all requirements for a cost share incentive practice (e.g., minimum residue for 3-year conservation tillage or long-term no-till) in spite of making a good faith effort to achieve the requirements, the district may, at its discretion, offer the cooperater a choice to either extend the duration of the maintenance obligation for the incentive practice by the number of years for which the minimum requirements were not achieved or to immediately repay the full amount of the cost share incentive received.