

## **STREAM PROTECTION MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

A Stream Protection System means a planned system for protecting streams and stream banks which eliminates the need for livestock to be in streams by providing an alternative watering source for livestock to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation, pathogen contamination, and pollution from dissolved, particulate and sediment-attached substances.

### Policies

1. If new permanent fencing is a requirement for a BMP, then it may be cost-shared (see Livestock Exclusion).
2. Structural geotextiles shall meet the requirements of "Construction Specification 217 - Geotextiles" and "Interim Material Specification 592 - Geotextiles". Drainage geotextiles shall meet the requirements of N.C. Technical guide, Section IV Practice Standard 606, as shown in paragraph 606-8-5.
3. 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 as follows:
  - a. Cost shared fencing must be set back a minimum of five (5) feet from the top of the stream bank in accordance with NRCS standards. Some portions of streams in Critical Water Supply Watersheds require a minimum ten (10) foot set back distance.
  - b. If livestock are concentrated in the vicinity of the stream or if runoff from areas of livestock concentration could reach the stream, then the cost shared fence shall be set back a minimum of twenty (20) feet from the top of the stream bank (i.e. heavy use area protection measures, loafing lots, barns, feeding stations, watering facilities, stock trails). The only allowable exception to the 20 foot set back requirement for cost shared fencing is that if the tank, heavy use area, etc. is located a minimum of one hundred (100) feet from the top of the stream bank, the set back for cost shared fencing shall be ten (10) feet.
  - c. If stream riparian areas have been damaged or destroyed, then fencing should be set back far enough to permit establishment of woody vegetation on the stream banks.
  - d. If the stream bank or channel erosion is such that there exists the potential for the fence posts to be undermined by the stream during the life of the fence, then set backs should be increased significantly (field determination).
  - e. For all cost shared BMPs which require fencing, a statement indicating the set back distance from the stream bank must be included in the CPO. Also, the fencing set back distance should be indicated on the sketch included with the CPO. The sketch should also indicate the distance from the top of the bank to the tank, heavy use area, etc., if applicable. (Note: "Meets set back requirements" is not acceptable. Actual set back distances must be indicated.)

## Agriculture Cost Share Program

4. All fencing installed at the applicant's expense must either meet NC Technical Guide Standards or be deemed adequate by District staff.
5. If significantly less fencing than planned in the CPO is cancelled, expires or is not installed, a statement signed by the technician must be submitted to the Division explaining why the fencing was not installed, why significantly less fencing was installed, or indicating that fencing was installed at the cooperator's expense. The statement should indicate that a site visit was performed, along with the date of the site visit to establish the status of the required fencing. Failure to install required fencing constitutes non-compliance and procedure relative to non-compliance must be followed.
6. For other components required as an integral part of a BMP, use cost values for the appropriate component provided elsewhere in the average cost.
7. If an applicant already has all livestock excluded from a stream, he/she may still be eligible for cost share assistance to install other components of a stream protection system that would enhance the water quality protection of the current system. Examples of this include installing a new water supply or enhancing an existing water supply if the existing supply is inadequate, installing additional heavy use area protection, or providing incentive for prescribed grazing.