

Emergency Access Restoration

Definition/Purpose

Repair or stabilization of existing access roads utilized for agricultural operations, including roads to existing crop fields, pastures, livestock production facilities, agricultural structures, or forestland incidental to agricultural land. The practice only applies to emergency access roads repaired prior to adoption of this policy.

Policies

1. The road shall be for agricultural use only.
2. Side slopes must be stable. Exposed soil slopes shall be stable and protected from erosion, but slopes steeper than 2:1 may require additional considerations for stability. Rock side slopes must be 1:1 or flatter.
3. For crossings:
 - a. At a minimum, culverts must convey the peak discharge from a 2-year, 24-hour storm event.
 - b. Culverts shall be reinforced concrete, corrugated metal or corrugated high-density polyethylene. Other materials may be used with Division approval.
 - c. Culvert sections must be joined with a water-tight coupling.
 - d. Culvert must be installed such that outlet grade is stable.
 - e. This practice does not apply for bridge crossings.
 - f. Top width must be sufficient for intended traffic to safely cross.
 - g. The crossing shall be adequately crowned over culvert to prevent overtopping of fill material. Divert flood flow around crossing using 10:1 (or flatter) approaches from both sides.
 - h. Fill material must be clean soil and adequately compacted for road or crossing stability.
4. Cost share shall not exceed 40% of average cost (or actual cost with receipts for components with no established average cost).
5. Cooperators assisted with this practice are not eligible for cost share to repair the practice if it fails for a period of 5 years. However, the cooperator will be eligible to apply for cost share to replace the emergency restoration with a repair that meets the relevant NRCS standard.
6. Staff with sufficient experience on design/construction of Access Roads, Stream Crossings, or Structures for Grade Controls can be approved by the Division to approve comparable design/ constructions for this practice.