ACSP Technical Review Committee

February 18, 2026

Technical Review Committee Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Approval of December Meeting Minutes
3. Fishing Creek District BMP
4. Grassed Waterway Policy Update
5. Proposed FY26 Meeting Schedule
6. Member Items

TRC Membership

John Beck, Chair	Division of Soil and Water Conservation
Erin Rivers	Cooperative Extension Service/ NC State University
Abubakarr Mansaray	School of Agriculture, NC A & T State University
Alex Jones	N. C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Starla Harwood	Farm Service Agency
Anne Coan	N. C. Farm Bureau Federation
Dewitt Hardee	N. C. State Grange
Brandon King	State Resource Conservationist, NRCS
Jim Kjelgaard	State Conservation Engineer, NRCS
Rachel Smith	Division of Soil and Water Conservation
Rick McSwain	Division of Soil and Water Conservation
Charlie Deaton	Division of Marine Fisheries
Benjy Strope	Wildlife Resources Commission
Rodney Wright	Rockingham Soil and Water Conservation District Employee
Pete Anderson	**Pamlico Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor**

December Meeting Minutes

- Review and approve the December 17, 2025 TRC meeting minutes

Fishing Creek District BMP

- Portable Shade Structure
- Request to use the same District BMP approved for Lincoln SWCD in 2024

Portable Shade Structure Policy

Fishing Creek SWCD BMP Proposal

Definition/Purpose

A Portable Shade Structure is a mobile device used to provide shade in areas of a rotational grazing system that may not have access to natural shade. The purpose of the structure is to reduce waste runoff to waterways and lower the erosive impacts of consistent livestock congregation.

Policies

1. Cooperator must operate a livestock farm that already utilizes a rotational grazing system, or operate a farm that is creating a new rotational system due to the construction of another related BMP (ex. prescribed grazing, watering facilities, exclusion fencing, etc.). Livestock must not have access to surface waters.

2. Structure should be placed a minimum of 100 feet from any waterways or surface water bodies.

3. Locate the structure a minimum of 50 feet from any existing structure that could obstruct the circulation of air.

4. Move portable structures as needed to maintain healthy vegetation in the immediate area. Use the location of the structure to create the desired livestock travel patterns.

5. Do not place the structure over a watering facility or tank.

6. Structure should not be placed in any area where it could cause potential damage or lead to liability issues – i.e., directly beside a roadway or building.

7. Cooperator must follow the manufacturer's guidelines for operation and maintenance and replace any materials that may have a shorter lifespan than the overall structure, like the shade fabric.

PORTABLE SHADE STRUCTURE	
Maintenance Period	10 years
BMP Units	Each
Required Effects	ACRES_AFFECTED ANIMAL TYPE ANIMAL UNITS
Related Practices	NRCS - 576 – Livestock Shelter Structure
JAA	Planning & Check-out Sheets – Portable Shade Structure
CS2 Reference Materials	NC-ACSP-11 Signature Page Map with BMP location, fields, and roads. Planning Sheet – Portable Shade Structure
Additional Spot-Check Requirements	The district shall inspect the site at least every two (2) years during the maintenance period.

FISHING CREEK SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

District BMP Proposal

Portable Shade Structure

Photos courtesy of Lincoln SWCD

BMP Name: Portable Shade Structure

Definition: A Portable Shade Structure is a mobile device used to provide shade in areas of a rotational grazing system that may not have access to natural shade. The purpose of the structure is to reduce waste runoff to waterways and lower the erosive impacts of consistent livestock congregation.

NRCS supporting standard: Livestock Shelter Structure (576)

Purpose:

- To provide protection for livestock from excessive heat, wind, cold, or snow.
- Protect surface waters from nutrient and pathogen loading.
- Protect wooded areas from accelerated erosion and excessive nutrient deposition by providing alternative livestock shelter/shade location.
- Improve the distribution of grazing livestock to enhance wildlife habitat, reduce over-used areas, or correct other resource concerns resulting from improper livestock distribution.

Background

This District BMP was originally presented and approved for Lincoln SWCD in April 2024. They successfully contracted and implemented this BMP in 2025, and it has worked well for the cooperator. Lincoln SWCD has generously allowed Fishing Creek SWCD to use and revise their BMP Policy and Planning and Check Out Sheets; however, we found no revision to be necessary. Granting Fishing Creek SWCD approval to test this BMP in the eastern region may be useful in determining its value to all of North Carolina.

A farmer in Halifax County approached us about cost share options for livestock shades. His farm has a permanent conservation easement through NC Land and Water Fund and the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program which includes a 300' streamside protection zone (84 acres total of protected riparian buffer). His livestock are permanently fenced out of the buffer and the shade that it provided. He practices rotational grazing but is limited by the remaining amount of shade. A portable shade structure would allow him to enhance his rotational grazing management system and further the conservation efforts that he is committed to.

See images below of this farmer's pasture.

NC Agriculture Cost Share Program Relevance:

Portable Shade Structures can help improve and protect water quality by providing shade in areas outside of riparian buffers. Shade would no longer be the limiting factor in rotational grazing systems. Providing adequate shade to support rotational grazing systems can reduce erosion and nutrient runoff associated with livestock continuously congregating in one area. Nutrients are then more evenly distributed throughout the pasture, and there is less overgrazing and vegetation degradation near shaded areas.

Portable Shade Structures can be a supporting practice in Stream Protection Management Systems along with Livestock Exclusion Fencing, Water Tanks, Heavy Use Areas, and other BMPs.

Technical Requirements:

Portable Livestock Shade should be assembled and operated according to manufacturer guidelines.

Technical staff will complete the Planning and Check Out Sheet created by Lincoln SWCD based on the NRCS Livestock Shelter Structure (576) Implementation Requirement (IR) worksheet. Completion of the form will serve as Job Approval Authority, similar to cost shared wells through ACSP and AgWRAP.

Cost Share Reimbursement Rate:

Due to the wide range of portable shade structure prices, this BMP should be reimbursed based on the actual cost of the structure. The cap is set based on the most expensive model below.

Proposed reimbursement rates:

75% of actual cost including shipping, not to exceed $21,638

90% of the actual cost including shipping, not to exceed $25,965

Portable Shade Structure Quotes as of February 2026:

Manufacturer	Model	Transport Method	Actual Cost	75% Reimbursement Rate	90% Reimbursement Rate
Serrated Shade	Obsidian 1300 sq ft	Trailer hitch on UTV, Truck, tractor, etc.	$25,000 + $3,850 SH	$21,638	$25,965
Shade Haven	1200 sq ft	Trailer hitch on UTV, Truck, tractor, etc.	$23,900 + $3,000 SH	$20,175	$24,210
Strobel	Super Shade 1600 sq ft	Forklift attachment on tactor, skid steer, etc.	$7,800 + $5,000 SH	$9,600	$11,520

Manufacturer photos

Serrated Shade – Obsidian (1300 sq ft)

Shade Haven - SH1200 (1200 sq ft)

Strobel – 40’ x 40’ Super Shade (1600 sq ft)

PLANNING SHEET

PORTABLE SHADE STRUCTURE

Cooperator Name

County

Tract/Field

Contract Number

Date

STRUCTURE SIZE

The minimum size requirements for a shade structure are shown in the table below (NRCS, Form 576-NC-IR) . **Portable structures may be smaller in height/area to facilitate movement.** Multiple structures may be needed depending on the number of animals to be sheltered. In prescribed grazing systems for high- producing livestock, provide shade for at least 75% of the herd, particularly for dairy or beef cows.

Animal Type	Minimum Shade Area Requirements	Minimum Shade Height Requirements
	Area (sq. ft. per head)	*Height (ft.)*
Dairy, beef, or horses	35-50	10-12
Swine, sheep, or goats	10-15	7
Poultry	3-7	7

Animal Type	# Head	75% Herd	Area (sq. ft./head)	Surface Area Required (sq. ft.)
Dairy, beef, or horses			**42.5**	
Swine, sheep, or goats			**12.5**	
Poultry			**5.0**	

Equations: (# Head) X (0.75) = 75% Herd

(75% Herd) X (Area (sq. ft./head)) = Surface Area Required

Total Surface Area Required

OPERATION & MAINTENANCE PLAN

The landowner/operator is required to establish and implement an operation and maintenance program. Inspections and maintenance are required to achieve the intended function, benefits, and the practice lifespan. Items to inspect annually and immediately following significant rainfall events, include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Maintain the structural and fabric components through the practice lifespan.
- Replace and/or repair maintenance coatings on structural steel components as necessary.
- Periodically tighten the shade cloth to minimize wind damage.
- Replace the fabric cover when it has deteriorated due to environmental conditions.
- Move portable structure periodically to prevent destruction of vegetation in the immediate area.
- Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for removal of snow and securing structure in excessive winds.

OTHER ITEMS SPECIFIC FOR THIS SITE *(planned size is smaller than designed size, etc.)***:**

TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE

Print Name

District

Signature

Date

CHECK-OUT SHEET

PORTABLE SHADE STRUCTURE

Cooperator Name

County

Tract/Field

Contract Number

Date

	PLANNED	ACTUAL
Total surface area of shelter?		
Total height of shelter?		

Portable structures may be smaller in planned height/area to facilitate movement. If the actual height/area is different than the planned, please explain why. *(ex. model was closest one to planned size, etc)*

	YES	NO
The portable shade structure has been constructed in accordance to the manufacturer's instructions.	☐	☐
This installed structure meets the guidelines in the BMP policy.	☐	☐

TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE

Print Name

District

Signature

Date

Grassed Waterway

ACSP Definition

A Grassed Waterway means a natural or constructed channel that is shaped or graded to required dimensions and established in suitable vegetation for the stable conveyance of runoff to improve water quality.

Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances.

Grassed Waterway Policy

- Current SWCC and NRCS JAA provide authority to design the conveyance
- Problem statement: In certain situations, appurtenant structures are needed, including subsurface drains, but ACSP lacks policy guidance and JAA for drainage.
  - ➢This causes confusion and misunderstanding of requirements
  - ➢Currently handled using NRCS JAA or Engineered

Grassed Waterway Policy

<u>New policy item #5</u>

Subsurface drains (NRCS Practice Code 606) may be incorporated into Grassed Waterway designs when necessary to address prolonged low flows, high water tables, or seepage conditions that hinder vegetation establishment or maintenance.

Additional conditions apply…

Grassed Waterway Policy

- Subsurface drains must be designed and installed with applicable job approval authority and in accordance with NRCS standards outlined in the National Engineering Handbook (210-650-H).
- ~~Drains should be offset from the centerline of the waterway by at least one-fourth of the top width. In some cases, dual drains may be required.~~
- Location of existing drain tile should be identified and assessed to determine the impact on field and ditch drainage.
- Subsurface drains may not be used to drain wetlands.

Addressed in later slides

Grassed Waterway Policy

- Animal guards are required on all subsurface drain outlets.
  - This is supported by ACSP Sediment/Nutrient Management Measures general policy #3. “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.”

Wetland Compliance Guidance

- Clarification of wetland requirements was requested to ensure ACSP practices do not impact cooperator federal conservation compliance
- Food Security Act/NRCS wetland compliance (Swampbuster provisions) requires agricultural producers to avoid planting on converted wetlands (after December 23, 1985) or converting wetlands for crop production to maintain USDA program eligibility

Wetland Compliance Guidance

- Form AD1026 (Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification) allows producers to certify they will not:
  - Produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without a conservation system;
  - Plant an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland;
  - Convert a wetland to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity
- A new activity that **improves or creates drainage** will prompt an update to Form AD-1026 "Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification"
- If necessary, FSA will notify NRCS and NRCS will then provide highly erodible land or wetland technical determinations.
- In most cases, drainage systems and other conversions that existed prior to December 23, 1985, can be maintained to the extent they existed at that time.

Revised Policy Wording

- Subsurface drains are not intended to drain wetlands and may not be used to convert Food Security Act wetlands without prior approval from NRCS. Any new drainage or updates to existing drainage systems requires submission of form AD-1026 to the local FSA office and receipt of a wetland determination from NRCS.

Grassed Waterways

Definition/Purpose

A Grassed Waterway means a natural or constructed channel that is shaped or graded to required dimensions and established in suitable vegetation for the stable conveyance of runoff to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances. (DIP)

Policies

1. This is a sediment control practice and must not be used if the primary purpose is to drain wet areas in a field.

2. As a condition for cost sharing, the field or treatment unit draining into the waterway must have installed, or the farmer must agree to install as part of the agreement, erosion control measures necessary to prevent damage from washout or excessive sedimentation in the waterway.

3. Precision ~~L~~land forming and smoothing for grassed waterways is intended to be used only where existing terraces, diversions or other minor landscape features must be removed prior to initiating a grassed waterway system.

4. All NRCS standards and NC Agriculture Cost Share Program policies relative to vegetation must be followed.

5. Subsurface drains (NRCS Practice Code 606) may be incorporated into Grassed Waterway designs when necessary to address prolonged low flows, high water tables, or seepage conditions that hinder vegetation establishment or maintenance. The following conditions apply:
   a. Subsurface drains must be designed and installed with applicable job approval authority and in accordance with NRCS standards outlined in the National Engineering Handbook (210-650-H).
   b. Location of existing drain tile should be identified and assessed to determine the impact on field and ditch drainage.
   c. Subsurface drains are not intended to drain wetlands and may not be used to convert Food Security Act wetlands without prior approval from NRCS. Any new drainage or updates to existing drainage systems requires submission of form AD-1026 to the local FSA office and receipt of a wetland determination from NRCS.
   d. Animal guards are required for all subsurface drain outlets.

Commented [JB1]: Original text: Subsurface drains may not be used to drain wetlands.

GRASSED WATERWAYS	
Maintenance Period	10 YEARS
BMP Units	ACRES
Required Effects	ACRES_AFFECTED – (planted acreage and drainage area)

	SOIL_SAVED NITROGEN_SAVED PHOSPHORUS_SAVED
JAA~~/NRCS Standard unless otherwise noted~~	SWCC – Grassed Waterway OR NRCS – ENG – 412 – Grassed Waterway NRCS – ENG – 606 – Subsurface Drains
NRCS Standard	NRCS – ENG – 412 – Grassed Waterway NRCS – ENG – 606 – Subsurface Drains National Engineering Handbook (210-650-H)
CS2 Reference Materials	NC-ACSP-11 Signature Page Map with BMP location, fields, and roads

Proposed FY2027 Schedule

- August 26, 2026
- October 28, 2026 (avoids the State Fair)
- December 16, 2026
- February 24, 2027
- April 28, 2027
- June 23, 2027

*May meeting scheduled as needed

Member Items

Open Discussion

TRC Meeting Schedule

Next Meeting:

- April 22, 2026

Future Meeting:

- June 24, 2026

- 3rd/4th Wednesday of the month
- 1:30 – 3:30 PM