AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM

Technical Review Committee

August 20, 2025 - 1:30 PM

Join Microsoft Teams Meeting

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Review and Approval of June Meeting Minutes
3. Commission Meeting Updates
   A. Waste & Nutrient Management Measures
   B. FY2026 ACSP Cost List
   C. FY2026 Detailed Implementation Plan
   D. FY2026 Financial Assistance Allocations
4. District BMP Update
5. Wilkes SWCD District BMP Request – Livestock Division Fencing (ACTION)
6. Member Items

FY2026 TRC Meeting Schedule

Wednesdays, 1:30 – 3:30 PM

October 22, 2025

December 17, 2025

February 18, 2026

April 22, 2026

May 20, 2026 (tentative)

June 24, 2026

ACSP Technical Review Committee

August 20, 2025

Technical Review Committee Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Approval of June Meeting Minutes
3. Commission Meeting/Program Update
4. District BMP Update
5. Wilkes SWCD District BMP Request – Livestock Division Fencing (ACTION)
6. Member Items

TRC Membership

John Beck, Chair	Division of Soil and Water Conservation
Erin Rivers	Cooperative Extension Service/ NC State University
Niroj Aryal	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
David Harris	Durham Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor

June Meeting Minutes

- Review and approve the June 25, 2025 TRC meeting minutes

AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM

Technical Review Committee

June 25, 2025 - 1:30 PM

Join Microsoft Teams Meeting

TRC Members: John Beck, Erin Rivers, Niroj Aryal, Anne Coan, Brandon King, Kim Kjelgaard, Rick McSwain, Benjy Strope, Rodney Wright, David Harris, Rachel Smith, Alex Jones

Guests: Lisa Fine, Shelby Kaplan, Keith Larick, David Williams, Lorien Deaton, Allie Dinwiddie, Josh Vetter, Michael Shepherd, Chris Love, Bryan Evans

AGENDA

1. Welcome
    a. Call to Order at 1:31PM (recording started)

2. Review and Approval of May Meeting Minutes
    a. David Harris motions to approve, Benjy Strope seconds
    b. Motion passes

3. Waste Management BMP Workgroup Update
    a. Feeding/Waste Storage Structure and Livestock Feeding Area (ACTION)
        i. John Beck reviewed the updated policies and the suggestion to combine these two practices into a single BMP
        ii. Rachel Smith described the difference between designing feeding areas when they started in the program versus current designs. More producers are storing winter feeding waste on a portion of the uncovered feeding pad. The proposed change is to clarify and streamline the design process.
            1. If the producer has a feeding pad with no waste storage, then it would not have an ACSP waste management component associated with the practice. This falls under the stream protection BMP category.
            2. Many producers would prefer to have a feeding pad with a waste storage area (with a roof to cover the waste). It depends on how the producer plans to use the space and what funds are available for them. If waste is stored on the pad, it falls under the Waste Management BMP category.

iii. Jim Kjelgaard suggested the possibility of offering options: a Feeding Facility with waste storage, a Feeding Facility with shade, and a Feeding Facility with no shade. This would allow feeding to be the main purpose.
iv. Anne Coan had a comment on the name of the practice being confusing, it may be best to better describe what is actually happening with the practice itself.
    1. A 'structure' implies a roof, but this does not have to be the determining factor in naming. Technically, a waste storage pit could also be named a storage structure in certain instances. Michael Shepherd states the term 'structure' is very broad. There is a large difference between an uncovered and covered storage structure, the vaguer description may allow for more complicated situations.
    2. Feeding Facility may be a better description.
        a. David Williams agrees that this is a more apt name for the practice.
v. There was a request to have more pictures available, to better understand what the TRC is discussing.
vi. Brandon King brought up a point of confusion about the correlation between a feeding area (a HUA) and the component for a covered area for the storage facility.
    1. A Feeding/Waste Storage Structure is enclosed to deflect water offsite and keep the waste on site over the winter.
    2. The current Feeding Area BMP is a HUA that is utilized specifically for feeding. The policy states that this is a concreate pad that may or may not have a push wall. It would also allow for a better surface to feed in the winter months. The area would not include any covered waste storage.
    3. The current Feeding/Waste Storage Facility include covered waste storage, requiring a WMP.
vii. Rachel Smith explained the need for sufficient setbacks. The biggest problem is the concentrated flow of nutrients to the stream. She has seen multiple feeding areas that are 'self-cleaning' due to the flow concentrating in the area and then flowing quickly to the stream from the water present. This is why the 100ft setback exists in practice, but the issue remains in some areas in the state. Discussion ensued:

1. Rachel explained that she has put a culvert around the feeding pad to prevent backflow washing the waste off the pad.
2. Anne Coan wants to ensure that the 100ft setback would not prevent producers in the west from using the practice.
3. David Williams suggests taking the setback clause out of the policy because it wouldn't apply to those areas with concentrated flow.
4. The goal of the setback is to have 100ft of filtration between the pad and the stream. Storms can often make this more difficult and not possible in certain cases, requiring a larger setback to avoid. Engineers must make sure that the pad is 100ft from any concentrated flow.
5. Keith Larick commented there are times one cannot abide by the setback distance but still have a water quality benefit in the area. It's important not to exclude opportunities for improvement of water quality, even if the setback requirement cannot be met. David Williams added that there are site limitations that have been approved as exceptions due to topography in the area.
6. The wording for this practice will need to be reviewed further.

viii. Anne Coan is concerned about point 6A in the policy document, relating to the WMP. She does not understand why a small operation has to utilize NRCS 590, since they do not have to comply with the state rules/permitting due to the size of operations. Keith Larick commented that DEQ has exceptions for small operations.
    1. John Beck stated that since ACSP is a water quality program, the standard (NRCS 590) has always been associated with waste management practices. This ensures the water quality benefit for using tax dollars in the program. Additional conversations may be needed to review these issues further.
        a. Anne Coan agrees that more discussion is needed. The main issues would remain with rules .0101 and .0102 waste rules.
        b. David Williams agrees with John Beck on the use of the NRCS standard. The cost share program relies on the NRCS standard where funds are given. If there is a technical reason not to do this, then discussions can be had.

2. Allie Dinwiddie requested clarity on the discussion. Michael Shepherd mentioned that standards are followed due to the program requirements. This issue has not come up previously because most participants in the program have had WMPs made and have enough land to manage waste following a P-based WMP.
    a. David Williams brought up that he went to the Area 2 DIC discussion on High Rock Lake. This was focused on application rates that are possible in the area. Most of these would be low application fields due to the historic poultry application.
    b. More discussion is needed on this topic.
3. Jim Kjelgaard noted that the state waste management regulations cite CPS 590. If an operation is exempted from state regulations due to size, then he does not think the CPS 590 criteria is as intensive. This may result in nutrient management being less intensive as well.

ix. This item was tabled for follow up discussion and technical review. The BMP and use of WMPs in the program will be analyzed and results shared to the TRC.

4. FY2026 ACSP Cost List Recommendations (ACTION)
    a. John Beck presented the updated cost list for ACSP in FY2026. Additional components added were requested by districts, costs will also be increased for certain components on the list.
    b. Jim Kjelgaard is curious if there is a group of economists that can be utilized for the cost lists going forward.
        i. David Williams stated that the Dept. of Agriculture does not, but they will use University economists if needed.
    c. Anne Coan motions to approve, Benjy Strope seconds.
        i. Motion passes

5. FY2026 Detailed Implementation Plan (ACTION)
    a. John Beck presented the updated DIP for FY2025. The number of approved BMPs increased to 67 with the addition of Use Exclusion Fencing.
    b. Anne Coan motions to approve, Benjy Strope seconds.
        i. Motion passes.

6. Program Updates
    a. Maintenance Period
        i. NC State is looking for partners for a maintenance period reduction study. Erin Rivers wanted to put this on the TRC's radar, it will be important to have an advisory committee to understand all sides of this topic and discussion.
        ii. Benjy Strope asked if there is access to social scientists for this study, Erin Rivers has experience doing these kinds of studies. She may ask around NC State to see if someone is interested in assisting. NRCS may have some social scientists on staff that could be helpful.
            1. Benjy mentioned being interested in this study.
    b. Waste Management Plan Guidance Document
        i. John Beck shared background on a draft WMP Guidance Document the Division developed. Anne Coan and Keith Larick shared concerns about this document rationale and provided counterpoints based on regulatory and statutory references. Division and Farm Bureau staff will meet to review the document and revise as needed.

7. Member Items
    a. None

Next Meeting: August 20th, 2025, 1:30PM-3:30PM

Meeting adjourned at 3:30PM

Commission Meeting & Program Updates

Commission Meeting Update

- ACSP Policy Revisions Approved
  - Waste Management Measures General Policy
  - Heavy Use Area Protection

✓16 of 18 Waste & Nutrient Management Measure items are complete

✓Continuing to work on waste management plan requirements and final BMP revisions

SWCC Approved

- Waste & Nutrient Management Measures General Policy
- Concentrated Nutrient Source Management System
- Constructed Wetlands
- Dry Stack
- Heavy Use Area Protection
- Insect Control Practice
- Lagoon Biosolids Removal Practice
- Manure Composting Facility
- Manure/Litter Transport Incentive
- Odor Control Management System
- Retrofit of On-going Animal Operations
- Solids Separation from Tank/Raceway-based Aquaculture Production
- Storm Water Management System
- Waste Application System
- Waste Impoundment Closure
- Waste Treatment Lagoon/ Storage Pond

In Revision

- Feeding/ Waste Storage Structure
- Livestock Mortality Management System

ACSP

DIVISION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION NORTH CAROLINA

Commission Meeting Update

✓Fiscal Year 2026 Approved Items:

- Agriculture Cost Share Program Cost List
- Detailed Implementation Plan
- Agriculture Cost Share Program District Financial Assistance Allocations: CS/SFR, II, UFB

District Financial Assistance Requests

- FY 2026 Strategic Plan –ACSP Requests
  - 100 counties requested **$16,420,133** in regular agriculture Cost Share funds (CS)
  - 39 counties requested **$2,649,767** for the Impaired and Impacted streams initiative (II)

District Financial Assistance Allocation

- TOTAL DISTRICT FUNDING FY 2026 = **$5,111,469**
  - REGULAR ACSP (CS/SFR) Total = **$ 4,581,469**
  - IMPAIRED/IMPACTED (II) Total = **$500,000**
  - CREP (CE) Total = **$30,000***
  - Upper French Broad = **$700,000***

    *funds available for just in time allocation
- 5% Contingency Reserve ($201, 775)

Commission Meeting Update

- FY2026 Roll Out Webinar for ACSP, AgWRAP, CCAP held on July 29
  - Recording available

- Conservation Employee Training was held in Cherokee, August 11-14

District BMPs

District BMPs Update – Active BMPs

- Alamance – Asphalt Millings
  - One contracted, installation incomplete
- Franklin – Forage Cover Crop
  - Four contracts, two completed
- Lincoln – Portable Shade Structure
  - Completed the initial contract
  - Interested in revising costs
- Stokes – Division Fence
  - Two installed, two approved contracts
- Stokes – Geocell
  - Two installed, two approved contracts
  - Interested in looking at costs to help cover installation

All Districts requested to keep BMPs active

- All districts with installed practices reported positive results
- Plan to continue monitoring costs and collecting data

Wilkes SWCD District BMP Request

Livestock Division Fencing

Wilkes District BMP: Livestock Division Fencing

Mikey Woodie

Natural Resource Conservationist

Wilkes Soil & Water Conservation District

Introduction to Livestock Division Fencing

DEFINITION: LIVESTOCK DIVISION FENCING IS A SYSTEM OF PERMANENT FENCING THAT DIVIDES LARGE PASTURES INTO SMALLER SECTIONS FOR GRAZING.

PURPOSE: THE PRIMARY GOAL IS TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY.

BENEFITS: THIS PRACTICE HELPS REDUCE SOIL EROSION, SEDIMENTATION, AND POLLUTION FROM RUNOFF.

The Need for This Practice

- **The Problem:** In large, undivided pastures, livestock often graze selectively and congregate in specific areas, leading to:
  - Uneven forage use
  - Overgrazed areas
  - Bare soil
  - Root structure damage
  - Concentration of nutrients

Sigua & Coleman, 2006; NRCS, 2017

The Need for This Practice

These conditions can cause resource concerns:

- Sheet/rill erosion
- Gully erosion
- Compaction
- Sedimentation
- Pathogen contamination
- Pollution from dissolved, particulate, and sediment-attached substances

Hubbard et al., 2004

How Livestock Division Fencing Solves the Problem

- **Improved Grazing:** Dividing pastures into smaller paddocks encourages using a rotational grazing system.
  - This gives sections of pasture a chance to rest and regrow

How Livestock Division Fencing Solves the Problem

- **Improved Pasture Health:**
  - More uniform grazing
  - Better manure distribution
  - Reduced soil erosion with increase in cover
  - Resiliency in times of severe weather
  - Enhanced soil structure
  - Increased water infiltration
  - Retain nutrients in upland pastures

Bates, 2022; Franzluebbers et al. 2021; USDA, n.d.

How Livestock Division Fencing Solves the Problem

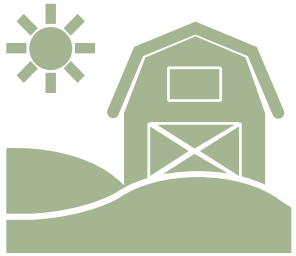
- **Combined Approach:** When used with livestock exclusion fencing, division fencing offers a more complete solution for improving water quality in both upland and riparian areas.

Alignment with NC ACSP

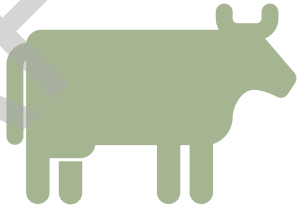
- **Program Goal:** The North Carolina Agricultural Cost Share Program (NCACSP) provides funding and technical support for practices that address nonpoint source pollution from agricultural land.
- **How it Fits:** Livestock division fencing reduces water quality concerns on livestock operations.
  - Consistent vegetation cover → stable soil → less runoff →

Reduced sedimentation and less nutrients entering surface waters!

Collaboration and Autonomy



Partnership: The NCACSP is based on a partnership between farmers, local conservation districts, and the N.C. Division of Soil and Water Conservation.



Farmer Empowerment: This program empowers farmers by providing an incentive for better pasture management without strictly prescribing a specific grazing method.

This flexibility will increase farmer participation and "buy-in," which is central to the program's success.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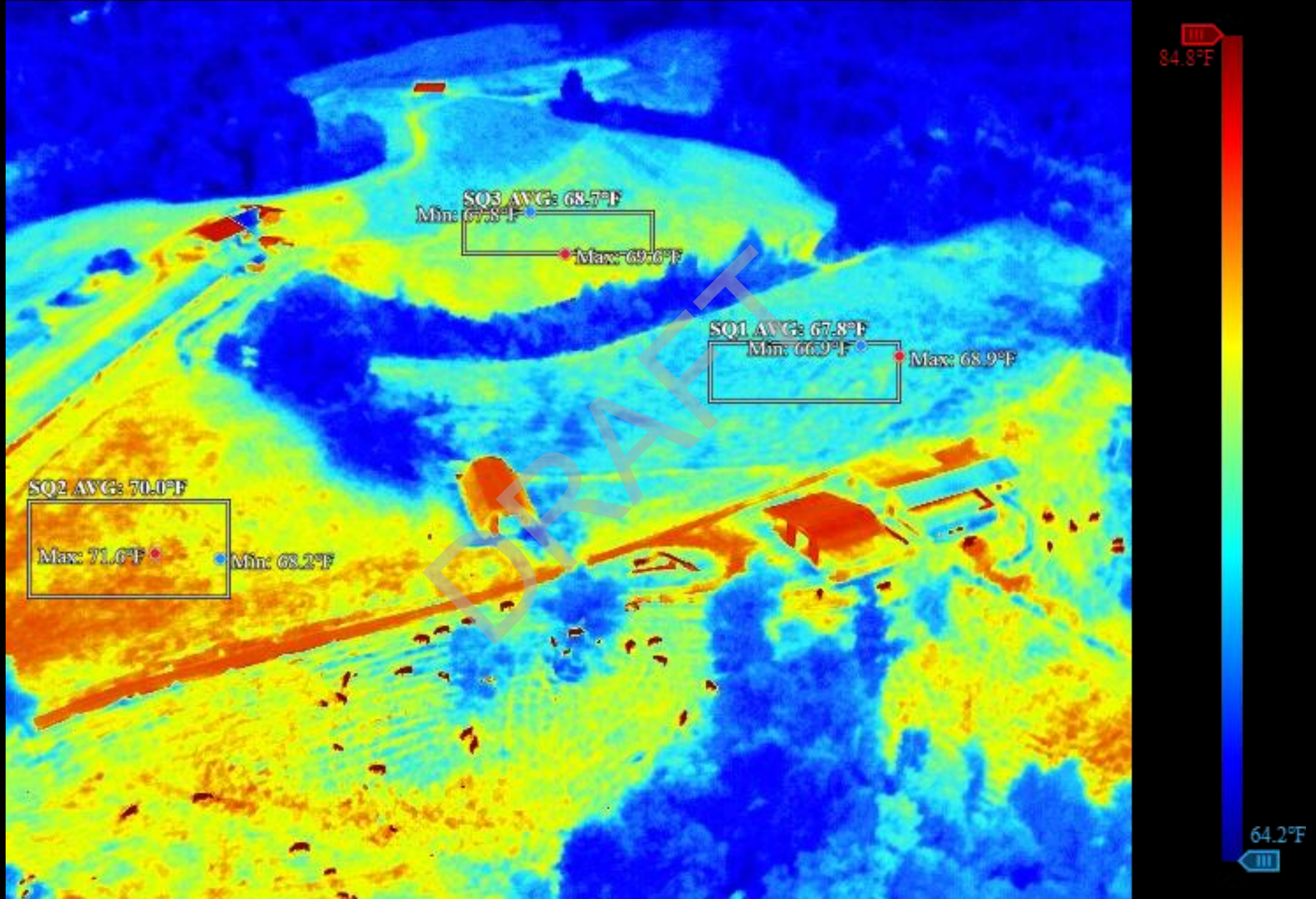
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Min: 67.8°F
Max: 69.6°F
SQ1 AVG: 67.8°F
Min: 66.9°F
Max: 68.9°F
SQ2 AVG: 70.0°F
Max: 71.6°F
Min: 68.2°F
84.8°F
64.2°F
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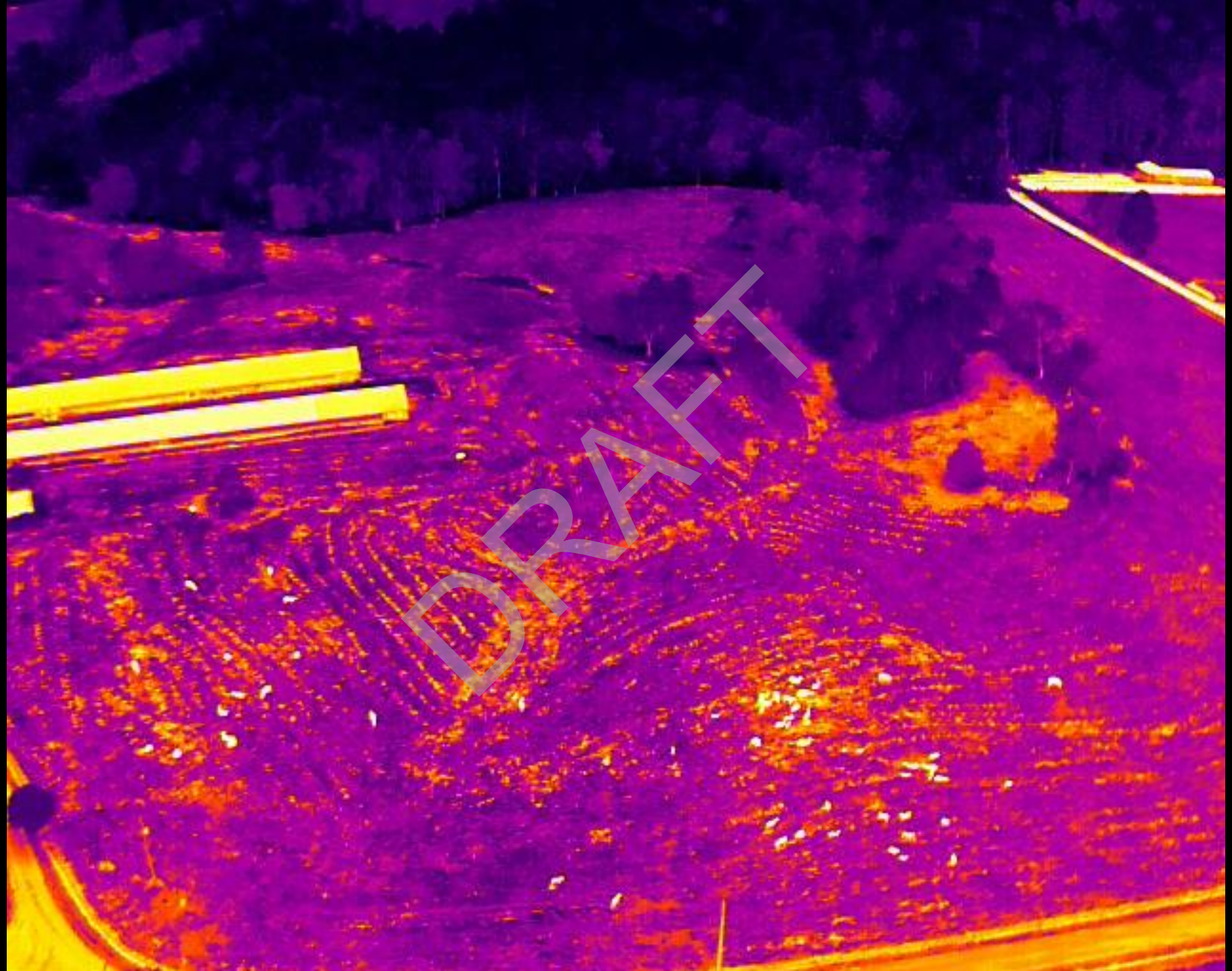
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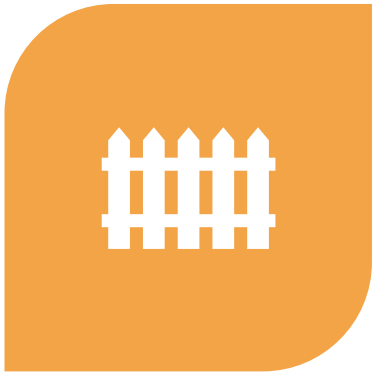
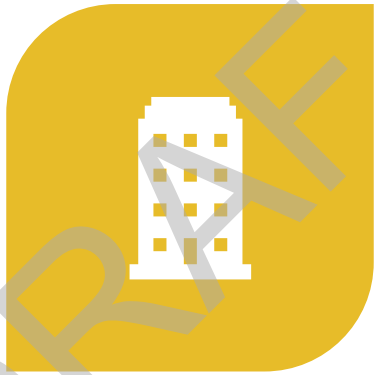
Technical Requirements



Standards: Installation must follow the NRCS Conservation Practice Standard and Implementation Requirements for Fence (382) and the attached Livestock Division Fencing policy.



Key Design Considerations: The design should minimize overgrazing and consider the location of water sources, feeders, shade, facilities, and the terrain.

The JAA requirements for Fence (382) should be used.

Congruously or as Enhancement: Livestock Division Fencing can be installed at the same time as livestock exclusion fencing or as an enhancement to an existing stream exclusion system.

Operation and Maintenance

- Fencing should be inspected regularly according to the following checklist:
  - ❑ Structural integrity
  - ❑ Debris on, in, or around the fence
  - ❑ Flood damage
  - ❑ Overhanging trees and limbs
  - ❑ Encroachment of vegetation, weeds, brush
  - ❑ Functions of electrical components

Cost Justification

- **Program Costs for BMP:** The average costs Livestock Division Fencing components would be determined by the most current NCACSP Average Cost List.

Fence Component	Cost Share Per Linear Foot (2026)
3-strand perm, electric, incl. gates	$3.92
4+-strand perm, electric, incl. gates	$4.27
3-strand perm, non-electric, incl. gates	$3.77
Perm, non-electric, incl. gates	$4.94
1-2 strand perm, electric or barbed, incl. gates	$3.53

These costs are evaluated and updated every three years by the Division of Soil and Water Conservation with the help of the Technical Review Committee.

Cost Justification

- **Savings to ACSP:**
  - Prescribed Grazing:
    - $35.00 per acre/year + fencing costs
  - Livestock Division Fencing:
    - Fencing costs only

  - Example: 30 acres pasture in 2 paddocks; divided into 6 paddocks
    - Prescribed grazing: $1,050 for incentive + $4,524 for 1,200 LinFt of 3-strand non-electric fencing
    - Livestock Division Fencing: **18.8% savings**

Evaluation and Monitoring

- **NRCS Pasture Condition Scoring**
  - Before installation
  - 1 year after installation
  - 2 years after installation

- Re-evaluate after that

Supporting Sources

- Bates, G. (2022, March 1). **Forage management: Smaller pastures = Better pastures**. UT Beef & Forage Center. https://utbeef.tennessee.edu/forage-management-smaller-pastures-better-pastures/
- Franzluebbers, A. J., Staley, A. J., & Van Gessel, M. (2021). **Soil nutrient distribution on cattle farms in three physiographic regions of North Carolina**. *Agronomy Journal*, *113*(1), 590–609. https://doi.org/10.1002/agj2.20508
- Hubbard, R. K., Newton, G. L., & Hill, G. M. (2004). **Water quality and the grazing animal**. *Journal of Animal Science*, *82*(suppl_13), E255–E263. https://doi.org/10.2527/2004.8213_supplE255x
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). (2017). **Grazing management & soil health**. U.S. Department of Agriculture. https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-09/Grazing%20Management_SoilHealth_0.pdf
- Pilon, C., Snelgrove, K. M., Larney, F. J., Lardner, H. A., & Brierley, G. I. (2017). **Long-term effects of grazing management and buffer strips on soil erosion from pastures**. *Journal of Environmental Quality*, *46*(2), 364–372. https://doi.org/10.2134/jeq2016.09.0378
- Sigua, G., & Coleman, S. (2006). **Sustainable management of nutrients in forage-based pasture soils: Effect of animal congregation sites**. *Journal of Soils and Sediments*, *6*, 249–253. https://doi.org/10.1065/jss2006.09.182
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). (n.d.). **Managing grazing to improve climate resilience**. USDA Climate Hubs. Retrieved July 1, 2025, from https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/northeast/topic/managing-grazing-improve-climate-resilience

Questions?

Wilkes District BMP: Livestock Division Fencing

Name and definition of the BMP:

Livestock Division Fencing means a system of permanent fencing (board, barbed, high tensile, woven wire or electric wire) installed to divide pastures intended for grazing to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation, pathogen contamination, and pollution from dissolved, particulate, and sediment-attached substances.

Support information on the need for the BMP:

On many farms with large pastures, livestock tend to graze selectively and congregate around water sources, shade, and feeders (Sigua & Coleman, 2006). Selective grazing and congregation lead to uneven forage use, overgrazed areas, bare soil, root structure damage, and concentration of nutrients (NRCS, 2017). In degraded pastures with insufficient vegetation, rainfall can lead to sheet/rill erosion, gully erosion, and increased runoff. These issues may contribute to sedimentation, pathogen contamination, and pollution from dissolved, particulate, and sediment-attached substances (Hubbard et al., 2004).

While livestock exclusion fencing prevents livestock from directly entering streams and riparian areas, a livestock exclusion system alone may not prevent runoff from degraded upland pastures from entering streams. Installing livestock division fencing allows producers to break large pastures into smaller paddocks, encouraging the implementation of a rotational grazing system that provides rest periods for sections of pasture. Dividing pastures allows vegetation to recover, encourages more uniform grazing and manure distribution, reduces soil erosion with an increase in cover, limits manure buildup, and supports more resilient pasture systems in times of severe weather (Bates, 2022; Franzluebbers et al., 2021; USDA, n.d.). Improved pasture conditions enhance soil structure, increase water infiltration, and help retain nutrients on the upland pastures (NRCS, 2017). Pilon et al. (2017) found that combining rotational grazing with a fenced riparian buffer was an effective treatment for erosion in pastures. A livestock exclusion system installed in conjunction with livestock division fencing addresses resource concerns in both riparian areas and upland areas of pastures, thus improving water quality with a more holistic approach.

Substantiation that the BMP meets the intent of the cost share program:

The North Carolina Agricultural Cost Share Program (NCACSP) is designed to address nonpoint source pollution by providing technical and financial assistance for the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) on agricultural lands in active

production. The program is voluntary and incentive-based, and producers work with their local soil and water conservation district to develop conservation plans, identify BMPs best suited for each operation, and design BMPs to ensure their longevity.

Livestock division fencing supports the intent of NCACSP by addressing resource concerns to water quality degradation within livestock operations. This BMP reduces sedimentation, pathogen contamination, and pollution from dissolved, particulate, and sediment-attached substances in surface waters (Bates, 2022; Franzluebbers et al., 2021). By maintaining consistent vegetative cover, the soil is stabilized, and sediment-attached substances are prevented from being washed off during rain events. Livestock division fencing also helps manage the distribution of nutrients, primarily sourced from manure (Franzluebbers et al. 2021). When pastures are divided and livestock graze evenly across fields, consistent forage regrowth in recovery periods can take up those nutrients and prevent nutrient-laden runoff from entering surface waters (Pilon et al. 2017). Livestock division fencing meets the intent of NCACSP by providing a cost share incentive to farmers that encourages voluntary engagement in better pasture management for the benefit of water quality.

A central idea of NCACSP is collaboration between the producer, the local conservation district, and the N.C. Division of Soil and Water Conservation to implement BMPs. The program intends to meet the individual needs of the farmer while addressing nonpoint source pollution. The installation of livestock division fencing encourages rotational grazing without prescribing it. This empowers the farmer to manage grazing more efficiently at a management level that suits their individual operational needs, which may increase landowner buy-in. The livestock division fencing BMP retains autonomy for the farmer yet incentivizes the improvement of water quality for everyone in the community – striking a balance that NCACSP aims for.

Technical requirements for proper installation of the BMP:

The NRCS Conservation Practice Standard and Implementation Requirements for Fence (382) and the attached Livestock Division Fencing policy should be followed for proper installation of this BMP. The BMP should be designed to minimize overgrazing. Water sources, feeders, shade, accessibility to facilities, and terrain should be considered when designing Livestock Division Fencing.

In addition, fencing should be inspected regularly as part of an Operation and Maintenance plan, according to the following checklist (NRCS NC Fence Conservation Practice Implementation Requirements):

[ ] Structural Integrity: post stability, rot, rust, wire tension, wire spacing, wire breakage, fasteners, etc.

[ ] Debris on, in, or around the fence

[ ] Flood damage

[ ] Overhanging trees and limbs

[ ] Encroachment of vegetation, weeds, and brush

[ ] Function of electrical components: proper input voltage, insulator integrity, grounding, charge on fence, etc.

Justification for the average cost of the BMP:

Fence components listed on the most current NC ACSP Average Cost List should be used for this BMP. These costs are evaluated every three years by the Division of Soil and Water Conservation with assistance from the Technical Review Committee.

Supporting Sources:

Bates, G. (2022, March 1). **Forage management: Smaller pastures = Better pastures**. UT Beef & Forage Center. https://utbeef.tennessee.edu/forage-management-smaller-pastures-better-pastures/

Franzluebbers, A. J., Staley, A. J., & Van Gessel, M. (2021). **Soil nutrient distribution on cattle farms in three physiographic regions of North Carolina**. *Agronomy Journal*, *113*(1), 590–609. https://doi.org/10.1002/agj2.20508

Hubbard, R. K., Newton, G. L., & Hill, G. M. (2004). **Water quality and the grazing animal**. *Journal of Animal Science*, *82*(suppl_13), E255–E263. https://doi.org/10.2527/2004.8213_supplE255x

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). (2017). **Grazing management & soil health**. U.S. Department of Agriculture. https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-09/Grazing%20Management_SoilHealth_0.pdf

Pilon, C., Snelgrove, K. M., Larney, F. J., Lardner, H. A., & Brierley, G. I. (2017). **Long-term effects of grazing management and buffer strips on soil erosion from pastures**. *Journal of Environmental Quality*, *46*(2), 364–372. https://doi.org/10.2134/jeq2016.09.0378

Sigua, G., & Coleman, S. (2006). **Sustainable management of nutrients in forage-based pasture soils: Effect of animal congregation sites**. *Journal of Soils and Sediments*, *6*, 249–253. https://doi.org/10.1065/jss2006.09.182

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). (n.d.). **Managing grazing to improve climate resilience**. USDA Climate Hubs. Retrieved July 1, 2025, from https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/northeast/topic/managing-grazing-improve-climate-resilience

Wilkes District BMP – Livestock Division Fencing

Definition/Purpose

Livestock Division Fencing means a system of permanent fencing (board, barbed, high tensile, woven wire or electric wire) installed to divide pastures and rotationally graze 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. Livestock Division Fencing must be permanent fence, and the average cost includes the cost of all materials, gates, and labor for installation of fencing.

2. A landowner may, as part of a stream protection system, **provide fencing at his/her own cost.** All fencing installed at the applicant's expense must meet NRCS Standards or technical staff with appropriate JAA must document the fencing does not meet standard but will serve the intended purpose for the duration of the contract.

3. Technical staff shall have the responsibility for determining appropriate setbacks 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 ten (10) feet from the top of the stream bank.

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 setback 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 the 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 setbacks should be increased significantly (field determination).

e. For all cost shared BMPs which require fencing, a statement indicating the setback distance from all existing or planned practices or structures to the stream bank must be included in the conservation plan, and distances must be indicated on the plan map (tank, heavy use area, barn etc.). (Note: "Meets set back requirements" is not acceptable. Actual set back distances must be indicated.)

4. Heavy use areas which are components of 15A NCAC 02T.1300 certified animal waste management plans must meet additional buffer requirements as included in SB 1217 interagency guidance documents.

5. If cost share is received for cropland conversion to permanent vegetation the cooperator cannot receive cost share for livestock exclusion, livestock division fencing, watering facilities, etc., on the same field for the life of the contract.

6. If significantly less fencing than planned in the contract is installed, a statement signed by the technician must be submitted to the Division explaining why the fencing was canceled from the contract (e.g. fencing was installed at applicant's expense). Failure to install required fencing constitutes non-compliance for all BMPs in the stream protection system.

7. ACSP funds shall not be used to cost share for fencing using used materials.

8. Livestock division fencing may intersect watering facilities to split them evenly between sections so that all pastures remain accessible to water tanks or troughs.

9. Livestock division fencing should be designed to minimize overgrazing. Take water sources, feeders, shade, accessibility to facilities, and terrain into account when designing divisions.

10. Livestock division fencing can be implemented at the time of livestock exclusion fencing, or as an enhancement to an already existing stream exclusion system to improve grazing distribution, reduce erosion, reduce waste accumulation, and reduce nutrient loading to nearby surface waters.

LIVESTOCK DIVISION FENCING	
Maintenance Period	10 years
BMP Units	LIN FT
Required Effects	ACRES AFFECTED ANIMAL TYPE ANIMAL UNITS
JAA/NRCS Standard unless otherwise noted	ECS – 382 – Fence
Supporting Practices	ECS – 472 – Access Control
CS2 Reference Materials	NC-ACSP-11 Signature Page Map with BMP location, fields, and roads.

TRC Meeting Schedule

Next Meeting:

- **October 22, 2025**

Future Meetings:

- December 17, 2025
- February 18, 2026
- April 22, 2026
- May 20, 2026 (tentative)
- June 24, 2026

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

Member Items

Open Discussion