

100% Cost Share Available for Livestock Stream Exclusion Systems

The Virginia Agricultural Cost Share (VACS) Program has significant new incentives available to livestock producers in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Livestock stream exclusion systems have now become eligible for 100% funding. Previously, the practice could be approved for up to 75% cost share. A stream exclusion system includes both stream and/or interior fencing, water troughs, pipe and the development of a water source to provide clean water to the livestock. The practice requires a minimum 35 foot setback from a stream. Monacan District staff works together with the landowner to create the most efficient design for the practice. An estimated cost is created from the design.



For producers who have been considering a stream exclusion system, now is the **best chance** to receive funding at the 100 percent level. The state has guaranteed to fund this practice at 100 percent as long as sign up occurs within the next two years (July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2015). It is a possibility that this practice will receive no state funding after June 30, 2015 and stream exclusion for livestock become mandatory and regulated.

An additional new benefit of this program is that there is no financial cap for a project utilizing this funding. In previous years, individual producers were limited to \$70,000 cost share.

Don't wait! Now is the time to apply if you are serious about owning livestock in the future and/or haven't been able to afford the work. The District may have no funding at present, but is available to work together with the sign up and implementation process.

The VACS program is administered by Monacan Soil and Water Conservation District in Goochland and Powhatan counties. It is available to other counties and towns through 46 other Soil and Water Conservation Districts. A Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Districts map is available at www.vaswcd.org or call Monacan at (804)556-4936 for more information.

The District is anticipating that this practice will be very popular. If you are interested or have questions, please call the Monacan District office at (804)556-4936. Keith Burgess or Betty McCracken will be glad to help you.