

SILVOPASTURE (CODE 381)

DESCRIPTION

Establishment of vegetation to achieve a natural resource conservation purpose.

PURPOSE

This practice is to be used to address a natural resource concern or improved conservation benefit by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service.

CONDITION

This practice may be applied on any area that is suitable for livestock.

POLICIES

1. NRCS Standards and Specifications for Silvopasture (Code 381) shall be followed when applying this practice.
2. The NRCS flat rates are to be used for all proposed vegetation.
3. Animals must be present or a water quality condition must exist.

Cost-share eligibility is determined as follows:

- a. Animals must be present on the farm and will be excluded as part of the practice. Cost-eligibility will be based on the number of animal units that regularly use or occupy the area being addressed.
 - i. If a minimum of 15 animal units are present, cost-share will be based on the applicable flat rates.
 - ii. Operations with 8 – 14 animal units will be based on the animal unit cost-effectiveness: (number of animal) x (\$25/year) x (maintenance life) minus USDA cost-share. (SECTION III, #5).
 - iii. Operations with less than 8 animal units are not eligible for MACS.
4. The applicant and the farm's Nutrient Management Plan must be in compliance with Maryland's Nutrient Management regulations (COMAR 15.20.08) at the time of Application. No Applications will be approved without a Nutrient Management Plan Certification Form submitted with the Application (SECTION III, #30).

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

1. The following actions shall be carried out to ensure this practice functions as intended throughout its lifespan. These actions include normal repetitive activities in the

application and use of the practice (operation), and repair and upkeep of the practice (maintenance), such as:

2. Manage trees, forages, and shrubs as needed to provide appropriate light conditions for forages, and shade/shelter conditions for livestock.
 - Inspect the site at an appropriate time following planting to determine whether the tree and shrub survival rate meets practice and client objectives. Replant or provide supplemental planting when survival is inadequate.
 - Control competing vegetation and livestock impacts until plantings are established.
 - Apply nutrients as needed for establishment and to maintain plant vigor.
 - Inspect trees and/or shrubs periodically following establishment and protect them from adverse impacts, including insects, diseases, competing vegetation, wildfire, livestock, wildlife, etc.
 - Where wildlife habitat enhancement is an objective, maintenance practices and activities shall not disturb vegetative cover during the primary reproductive period (e.g., nesting period) of wildlife. Exceptions can be considered for periodic burning or mowing when necessary to maintain the health of the plant community.

COST-SHARE RATE

The State cost-share payment shall not exceed 87.5% of the total eligible cost, not to exceed \$150,000 per project from all funding sources.

ATTACHMENTS

Applicant(s) with an outstanding Unsatisfactory On-Farm Status Review of BMP Maintenance and Use of previous project(s) may be ineligible for MACS Cost-Share funding. When a previous project expires with outstanding unsatisfactory status, the applicant is ineligible for any future MACS funding.

The following items are needed:

1. A copy of a recorded deed(s) for the parcel(s) where the BMP is located. If the current, appropriate deed is already on file in the MACS Office, then record both the agreement number of the file where the deed is kept and the liber/folio numbers in the General Comments section of the application.
2. A copy of the Real Property Data Search page from the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation's website (www.dat.maryland.gov) indicating the Maryland Property View Account ID Number and owner information.
3. An aerial photograph indicating the property lines as well as all existing and proposed BMPs. For sediment control practices, indicate the drainage area and the direction of flow.
4. A plan view sketch graphically demonstrating the layout and details of the proposed BMP.
5. Nutrient Management Plan Certification Form shall be submitted with the Application (SECTION III, #30).