

**STREAM CROSSING
(CODE 578)**

DESCRIPTION

A stabilized area to provide access for livestock across a stream or ditch.

PURPOSE

To control bank and streambed erosion, reduce sediment and enhance water quality by controlling livestock intrusion in the waters of the State. To provide a controlled crossing for livestock which may allow access for farm equipment for pasture maintenance.

CONDITION

This practice is to be applied to specific problem areas abutting farmland where the movement of livestock across waters of the State is necessary and where movement of equipment between areas is necessary for pasture maintenance.

POLICIES

1. Livestock crossings are to protect stream banks and streambeds from erosion and protect the waters of the State from animal waste pollution. The installation of a stream crossing is limited to small streams with perennial or intermittent flow. Small streams eligible for cost-share will have a base flow depth of less than 2 feet and/or a base flow width of less than 15 feet. Other streams will be considered only upon specific justification.
2. Soil loss considerations should be based only on areas directly affected by livestock intrusion. DO not evaluate soil loss according to the entire watershed.
3. A minimum of *fifteen (15)* animal units must regularly use or occupy the area being addressed. Operations with *eight (8)* to *fourteen (14)* animal units may be eligible based on the animal unit cost-effectiveness (reference Section III, page 13, 44.b).
4. Cost-sharing *is authorized* for establishment of the permanent vegetative cover as buffer strips along banks according to criteria for Filter Strips (Code 393) or Critical Area Planting (Code 342), *plus* one or all of the following, if necessary:
 - a. Provision of access to water for livestock (Code 614) as an alternative to stream use according to criteria for grazing land protection.
 - b. The temporary diversion of base flow during construction of the stream crossing.
 - c. Cost-sharing *is provided* for a 12-foot maximum crossing top width perpendicular to the water flow. Additional costs for larger crossings *must be paid by the applicant*.

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- d. Permanent Fencing (Code 382) to protect water quality and/or the water body banks and beds from damage by domestic livestock.
5. When applying for cost-sharing under this practice, *all* components and their associated NRCS code numbers will be included under Section II of the MACS Water Quality Project form. For example, if applying for a Filter Strip, a Stream Crossing, and Fencing, NRCS Codes 393, 578, and 382 must be listed on the application.
6. If the applicant is certain to increase her or his animal capacity within the next six months, *and* if the applicant will document that fact in writing to the Department's satisfaction, cost-share may be approved based on the total new animal capacity on the farm. The SCD must document the animal capacity increase on the Certificate of Imminent Start-up or Expansion of a Poultry-Growing Operation form or Certificate of Imminent Start-up or Expansion of a Livestock Operation form and submit this form with the MACS Water Quality Project form. The department will not process the MACS Claim for Payment until the SCD certifies in writing that the expansion has occurred *and* that the additional or new animals have been placed on the farm.
7. NRCS Standards and Specifications for Stream Crossing (Code 578) will be followed when applying this practice. The NRCS Standards and Specifications for Filter Strips (Code 393) or Critical Area Planting (Code 342) will also be followed.
8. This practice must be properly maintained for a minimum of ten (10) years following installation. The applicant agrees to provide all equipment, materials and labor to meet this requirement.

EROSION PROTECTION

If soil and climatic conditions permit, a protective cover of vegetation will be established on all disturbed earth surfaces. In areas where vegetation will not survive, non-vegetative means such as gravel, or lining such as a permanent 3-dimensional inert plastic grid confinement system may be used. Refer to NRCS Standard for Critical Area Planting (Code 342).

COST-SHARE RATE

The State cost-share payment will not exceed 87.5% of the total eligible cost, not to exceed \$35,000 per project.

ATTACHMENTS

Applicant(s) with an outstanding Unsatisfactory On-Farm Status Review of BMP Maintenance and Use of previous project(s) may be ineligible for further 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.state.md.us) 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 project BMP.