

**TERRACE SYSTEM
(CODE 600)**

DESCRIPTION

An earth embankment, channel, or a combination ridge and channel constructed across the slope to reduce slope length, intercept and conduct surface runoff at a non-erosive velocity. Parallel terraces are of value on practically all erosive soils except those that are too stony, sandy, or shallow to permit practical and economical construction and maintenance.

PURPOSE

To provide protection from erosion and to prevent pollutants from nutrients, sediment, animal wastes, or agricultural chemicals from reaching the waters of the State.

CONDITION

This practice is to be applied on cropland where: water erosion is a problem; the soils and topography are such that terraces can be constructed and farmed with a reasonable effort; a suitable outlet can be provided; runoff and sediment damages land, damages improvements downstream, or impairs water quality.

POLICIES

1. The cost-effectiveness must be shown to be \$40/ton of soil saved or less to be eligible for MACS funding. If the cost-effectiveness of the proposed BMP exceeds \$40/ton of soil saved, use the variable rate formula to determine the maximum amount of cost-share funds the applicant could receive from all funding sources.
2. Cost-sharing *is authorized* for the following:
 - a. Terraces, and the necessary leveling and filling to permit installation of an effective system.
 - b. Removal of stone walls or hedgerows if necessary to permit installation of an effective system.
 - c. Materials and installation of underground pipe outlets and other mechanical outlets.
 - d. Necessary vegetative protective outlets or waterways.
 - e. Converting the present system to a new system only if the present system is not adequately serving its intended conservation purpose and was not previously cost-shared by the State program.

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3. Cost-sharing is not authorized for the following:
 - a. Maintenance of a Terrace System.
 - b. The conversion to a Terrace System due solely to change in cropping pattern or change in farming equipment.
 - c. Pipe, stone, or concrete to serve as a crossing or lane over or through the terrace system.
4. A protective outlet or waterway which is installed solely as an outlet for the Terrace System and serves no other conservation purpose shall be cost-shared as a component of this practice. A protective outlet or waterway which by itself solves a conservation problem and also serves as an outlet for a Terrace System is to be applied for under Grade Stabilization Structure (Code 410), Grassed Waterway (Code 412), or Lined Waterway/Outlet (468).
5. NRCS Standards and Specifications for Terrace Systems (Code 600) shall be followed when applying this practice.
6. This practice must be properly maintained for a minimum of ten (10) years. The applicant agrees to provide all equipment, labor and materials needed to meet this requirement.

COST-SHARE RATE

The State cost-share payment, alone or when combined with any other cost-share program, shall 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, also indicate drainage area and direction of flow.
4. A plan view sketch of the area indicating the location of the proposed BMP and graphically demonstrating the layout and details of the project.