

Agricultural Water Collection System

Definition/Purpose

Construct an agricultural water collection system for water reuse or irrigation to improve water quality. These systems may include construction of new ponds, utilizing existing ponds, water storage tanks and pumps in order to intercept sediment, nutrients, and manage chlorophyll a. These systems may have the added benefit of reducing the demand on the water supply, and decreasing withdrawal from aquifers but these benefits shall not be the justification for this practice.

Policies

1. The system shall be for agricultural use.
2. The system must be certified by a professional engineer or an individual with appropriate job approval authority.
3. The Preliminary Site Assessment Tool for new ponds must be completed. The pond(s) must be designed to the references below based on its hazard classification:
 - a. Low Hazard Classification – All designs must meet either NRCS Standard 378 (Pond) or the NC Dam Safety Law (15A NCAC 02K .0100) regardless of if they fall under the Dam Safety Permitting Requirements. The design components may not be mixed within the two standards.
 - b. Intermediate Hazard Classification – All designs must meet the NC Dam Safety Law (15A NCAC 02K .0100) regardless of if they fall under the Dam Safety Permitting Requirements.
 - c. High Hazard Classification – All designs must meet NC Dam Safety Law (15A NCAC 02K .0100)
4. Items for reimbursement under the maximum cost share allowed includes new pond construction, pond repair, water storage tanks and needed pumps to recycle the water throughout the system. If multiple pumps are needed, a portable pump should be used. If a portable pump is not used, a written justification is required and may determine if more than one pump can be approved for cost share.
5. Irrigation equipment is not eligible for this practice.
6. Operation and Maintenance Plan is required.
7. Cooperators are responsible for obtaining and complying with all required permits.
8. Minimum life of BMP is 10 years.

Agriculture Cost Share Program

9. If the system is no longer used for the purpose of the practice during the maintenance period, the cost share contract shall be considered out of compliance.
10. The District shall inspect the site annually during the maintenance period.

Specifications

North Carolina NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, Code 313 (Waste Storage Facility), Code #378 (Pond), Code #402. (Dam), NRCS Fact Sheet: Preliminary Site Assessment for New Ponds.