# WATERSHED LAND TREATMENT PROGRAM (WLTP) COST-SHARE AND INCENTIVE-PAYMENT PROJECTS AND POLICIES

# LAKE AND RIVER ENHANCEMENT (LARE) PROGRAM INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE

The Watershed Land Treatment Program (WLTP) provides cost-sharing and incentive payments to landusers (i.e., landowners or long-term lease holders) to apply or construct practices on their land that reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients entering a lake or river. The program applies to any watershed where a LARE Watershed Diagnostic Study or equivalent study, such as a Section 319 Watershed Management Plan has determined that significant sources of pollution are contributing to the respective lake or river's water quality and/or sedimentation.

The Division of Fish & Wildlife, Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IN DNR), administers the program in cooperation with Indiana County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD's) under policy established by the Director of DNR. SWCD's implement the program locally with staff assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA).

Applications for WLTP projects must be submitted by SWCD's by January 15th of the year they are proposing for project operations. The applications are considered for funding in the summer round of LARE Grants by the LARE staff in the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife. The awards are made by the DNR Director. Projects that are approved for funding potentially may be renewed for up to 5 years in total, and is dependent on the size, scope, and successes in getting landuser involvement in the project.

Funding for WLTP projects comes from a portion of the annual watercraft registration fee that boat owners pay to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

## ELIGIBLE WATERSHED TREATMENT PRACTICES

The list of approved practices that are eligible for cost-sharing and incentives for the WLTP can be found at the end of this document. It was updated July 2021 and applies to all WLTP projects granted 2021 or later.

All practices must be applied according to the standards and specifications provided in the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), Section IV for the State of Indiana. If FOTG standards do not exist for a planned practice, it should be built according to standards and specifications developed by a professional with pertinent qualifications, training, expertise, and experience as to satisfactorily provide such information.

To receive cost-sharing and/or incentives a landuser must agree to apply, operate, and maintain the respective practices for their prescribed life span. The practices must be applied for and approved BEFORE they are installed (i.e., participants cannot apply for payments on practices installed before approval of LARE Staff). Payment of any practice will not be initiated until all plans, forms and supporting documents have been reviewed and approved by the SWCD Board and LARE staff. Additionally, these practices must be part of a Conservation Plan developed with the landuser. The Conservation Plan should outline the landusers decision regarding conservation practices to be applied on their land up to a two-year period.

## SELECTION CRITERIA AND PRIORITIES FOR WATERSHED PROJECT

Priority will be given to projects where:

1. The Project area is within a Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) as outlined in the Indiana State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) of the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife.
2. A technical watershed analysis has identified critical area and sources of pollution in the watershed that need to be given treatment priority for restoration of a lake or river.
3. The size of the watershed(s) proposed for treatment is small enough to expect a high level of land treatment during the project period, yet large enough relative to the size of the lake or river to have a major impact on the water quality and sedimentation in the project area.
4. The proposed treatment practices are well suited for solving water quality and/or sedimentation problems identified and are likely to be accepted and implemented by landusers in the watershed(s).
5. The local SWCD has demonstrated that they have developed or are developing an implementation plan that will ensure significant benefits are derived from the project.
6. The SWCD has had contact with watershed landusers or producers and has developed a list of interested participants interested in applying or constructing practices: and
7. The proposed project is compatible with other federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

## HOW TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

Funding requests for WLTP projects must come from SWCD's. If a proposed project area includes more than one district, the affected SWCD's should work together to develop an implementation plan. The SWCD's should then apply for the funding necessary to administer the watershed project, likely with each SWCD receiving a separate grant award.

Before applying for funding, the SWCD's should contact LARE Staff to help determine the appropriate watershed to include in the project and if the proposed project meets the eligibility criteria.

SWCD's may download a WLTP application from:
https://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3302.htm

## APPROVED COST-SHARE AND INCENTIVE PAYMENTS

For practices installed or applied within the watershed of a lake, stream, or river, the cost-share amount for a practice may be up to 80% of the actual cost but may not exceed the maximum allowed.

Minor exceptions to the requirements may be considered on individual practices by LARE Staff.

Special information and demonstration projects or practices may be approved by LARE Staff on a case-by-case basis.

# Cost-Share Partial Payment Policy

A cost-share construction project may receive partial payment if the project cannot be fully completed due to weather constraints and/or cropping conflicts. At the time of construction termination, the partial construction must be at a stable and sensible separation point for the practice, based on sound engineering and environmental principles. Temporary erosion control measures must be applied, if necessary, for project stabilization. Approval for partial payment must be made by LARE staff before an agreement is made regarding partial payment with the cost-share participant. LARE will pay 85% of the earned cost-share, holding 15% until the project is fully completed.

For example:

1. A grassed waterway construction that is completed after standard seeding

dates in the fall may be seeded with a temporary seeding mixture and approved for 90% payment of the earned cost-share. The withheld 10% of the earned cost-share, along with the remaining project cost-share, will be paid when a permanent seeding mixture is applied, and the project is completed.

2. A tile installation that is completed for a WASCOB may receive payment for 90% of the earned cost-share; the withheld 10% of the earned cost-share, along with the project's remaining cost-share, will be paid after the WASCOB construction is complete.

## GENERAL CRITERIA FOR APPROVED COST-SHARE PRACTICES

Lake and River Enhancement is a stand-alone program for cost-share purposes. Cost-share practices will not be eligible to receive payments from LARE if they are combined with any local, state, or federal program unless prior approval is obtained from LARE Staff.

Incentive payments are independent of cost-share payments and may be combined with non-state incentive or rental payments. Both incentive amounts and cost-share rates must be applied as written within this policy document.

Cost-share for tile installation for all practices will be limited to an 8" diameter tile (or equivalent cost) unless prior approval is obtained from LARE Staff.

No more than 50% of one LARE WLTP grant may be used for Conservation Tillage, Cover Crops, or any combination of the two practices.

## SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR INCENTIVE PAYMENT PRACTICES

**Blind Tile Inlet:** As an alternative to open tile inlets (risers) on grassed waterways and for field drainage, an incentive payment is available for blind inlets (similar to French drains) which will prevent some of the pollutant problems associated with untreated runoff. The inlets may be replaced with coarse crushed stone which offers some limited filtration to inflowing water, and the stone would then be surrounded by a grassed buffer area. The stone partially impedes water flow, so that during heavy rains much of the runoff would flow over the stone rather than into the inlet. An incentive payment of $1,500 is available for each site. This practice must be maintained for a minimum of 10 years.

**Critical Area Planting:** This practice provides for the planting of vegetation such as trees, shrubs, grass, or legumes on highly erodible or critically eroding areas; it may also be applied to a problem such as a wet seep on a hillside and may involve a buffer around a wetland. On a limited, case-by-case approval basis, the practice may also be applied on selected portions of field perimeters where other practices are not applicable, but where

topography makes the sites susceptible to erosion. Erosion is generally reduced by protecting steep slopes or highly erodible soils. The payment should assist with site preparation, seeding, and maintenance of the planting or stabilization. In most cases, small acreages in a larger field can be vegetated and protected, while the remainder of the field can still be farmed without suffering unacceptable erosion. An incentive payment of $600 per acre will be paid for this practice. This practice must be maintained for a minimum of 10 years.

**Filter Strip:** A vegetated buffer filter strip can trap eroded soil and stormwater-borne nutrients and pesticides which might otherwise be transported downslope into surface waters. This practice can be extremely beneficial in affording protection where other measures may not. Filter strips can also supplement practices which may not, themselves, be fully satisfactory for protecting water bodies from pollutants. For example, even though conservation tillage can reduce erosion on a crop field, a certain amount of soil can still be eroded from the field but trapped by a filter strip. The effectiveness of filter strips is influenced by factors such as width, slope, vegetation type, sediment particle size, and runoff rate. Areas taken out of production to create filter strips can be used for access to a field, for haying, or to provide a safety buffer to prevent tractor accidents along ditches and streams. This is a highly desirable practice which is strongly encouraged but is difficult to convince many farmers to adopt since it results in reduced field size. Additional ecological and water quality benefits can be provided if shrubs and/ or trees are strategically incorporated into the riparian buffer area. Filter strips are not intended for large scale applications covering entire fields. Appropriate widths shall be based on the purpose; added width may be justified to allow for removal of nutrients and/ or pesticides. **The maximum width shall be 60 feet.** (In situations where there is no existing buffer zone adjacent to the affected water body, the maximum can be expanded to 66 feet to accommodate herbicide application restrictions.) To simplify previous policy, an incentive payment of $650 per acre shall be paid to the landowner. This practice must be maintained for a minimum of 10 years.

**Tile Riser Grassed Buffers:** Certain practices such as grassed waterways, Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOBs), terraces, and flat, tiled land, which have tile riser inlets can pose a pollution threat to the streams or lakes into which they discharge runoff. Water that flows into the structures needs to be treated in a manner to reduce or remove eroded soil, nutrients, and pesticides flowing into waterways downstream. Research has shown that grassed buffers can provide such treatment. Therefore, appropriate buffers are required for all new structures with tile inlets. Installation of buffers is encouraged on existing structures (and tile systems) and funds are available for such retrofitting. To be consistent with current federal herbicide applications requirements, a 66-foot radius (minimum) grassed buffer area shall be installed around tile inlets. For WASCOBs, seeding is required 66 feet upstream of and to the other side of the riser, but only up to the top of the ridge (on the ridge's upstream side). An incentive payment of $400 is established for each site. This practice must be maintained for a minimum of 10 years.

## SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR COST-SHARE PRACTICES

**Conservation Tillage:** Since there is still a reluctance by many farmers to reduce tillage to levels necessary to effectively control erosion, this practice will be cost-shared at 80% of the actual cost and shall not exceed $20.00 per acre, with a maximum of 300 acres/year. Cost-sharing for conservation tillage is not appropriate for landusers who already own the appropriate tillage equipment or have already adopted a conservation tillage system and shall not be made available to any landuser for more than two years. This practice must be maintained for a minimum of 1 year.

**Cover Crops:** In most cases, each of the following cover crop benefits are maximized when they are planted as early as possible and terminated as late in the fall as possible, erosion control, water infiltration, reduced nitrate loss, reduced phosphorus loss, weed suppression, and improved soil health. Cost-sharing for cover crops is not appropriate for landusers who have tried this practice either on their own or through other conservation programs. This practice will be cost-shared at 80% of the actual cost and shall not exceed $35.00 per acre with a maximum of 300 acres/year. Cost-sharing shall not be made available to any landuser for more than two years. This practice must be maintained for a minimum of 1 season.

**Denitrifying Bioreactor:** This practice is used to remove nitrate from wastewater or agricultural drainage waters, such as from tile drains. The structure provides a slow-degrading carbon source, such as woodchips, through which the water containing nitrates is passed. The woodchips support denitrifying microbes that will convert the nitrates in the water to nitrogen gas, which is released to the atmosphere. This practice will be cost-shared at 80% of the actual cost of installation, which shall not exceed the maximum amount of $12,000 per structure. This practice must be maintained for a minimum of 15 years.

**Diversion:** In order to re-direct significant surface water flow which would otherwise contribute to erosion, a diversion channel (and down slope supporting ridge) can be constructed across the slope of a field to transport the water to a more stable area. This practice will be cost-shared at 80% of the actual cost of installation, which shall not exceed the maximum amount of $4.50 per linear foot. This practice must be maintained for a minimum of 10 years.

**Fencing:** Fences can be beneficial in excluding livestock from environmentally sensitive areas, in regulating livestock access to a particular area, or for permitting proper grazing distribution in pastures. All these situations may improve erosion control and/or water quality. This practice does *not* include cost-sharing on any form of temporary fencing. Permanent fencing practices may be used for the following applications:
1) Exclusion fencing (to prevent livestock access to environmentally sensitive areas),

2) New perimeter fencing necessitated by a land use conversion (e.g., cropland to pasture), or
3) Permanent interior fencing to permit proper grazing distribution within the pasture(s).

Typically, electrified temporary fence is the desired type of interior fencing to subdivide pastures into smaller units or paddocks, thereby allowing for more precise management of each of the paddocks. The temporary fencing can be easily and readily relocated to refine the management of the paddocks, i.e., changing the size of the paddocks due to the number of grazing animals or climatic conditions throughout the year, and/or to permit adequate access for haying, fertilizing, and maintenance of the pastures. However, certain circumstances may necessitate the use of permanent interior fences, such as when electricity to energize a temporary fence is unavailable or cost prohibitive. A conservative approach shall be utilized when approving applications for permanent interior fences and all applications will be reviewed by the LARE project manager to ensure appropriateness, feasibility, and cost-effectiveness. Additionally, permanent interior fencing shall only be eligible for cost-share when installed in conjunction with 1) exclusion fencing and/or 2) new perimeter fencing. The cost-share expended for permanent interior fencing shall not exceed the cost-share expended for exclusion fencing and/or new perimeter fencing. The fencing practices should be part of an approved prescribed grazing plan. Fencing adjacent to water bodies shall be installed in conjunction with vegetated filter strips of appropriate recommended widths. This practice will be cost-shared at 80% of the actual cost of installation which shall not exceed the maximum amount of $3.00 per foot. This practice must be maintained for a minimum of 20 years.

**Field Windbreak:** A strip/row of trees or shrubs in or adjacent to a field can reduce wind erosion effects, shield crops and enhance their growth, and create wildlife habitat. Although not as directly beneficial to surface water quality as many other practices, a windbreak can constrain wind-blown soil that might be transported into roadside ditches or otherwise enter streams or lakes. Professional assistance regarding species selection and planting regimes can be solicited from IN DNR district foresters or a private consulting forester and is encouraged. This practice will be cost-shared at 80% of the actual cost of installation which shall not exceed the maximum amount of $600 per acre. This practice must be maintained for a minimum of 15 years.

**Grade Stabilization Structure:** In areas where the concentration and flow velocity of runoff is sufficiently high, an engineered structure such as a rock chute or block chute is required to control the grade and head-cutting of natural or artificial channels, thereby preventing the advancement or formation of gullies. As with certain other practices, installation of these structures can result in a directed discharge of waterborne pollutants into receiving streams. For this reason, their construction should be accompanied by installation of appropriately designed filter strips which can trap sediment, nutrients, and pesticides upstream from the structure. These filter strips must be sized to allow for conformance with regulations pertaining to application setbacks for specific pesticides used in their vicinity. This practice will be cost-shared at 80% of the actual cost of

installation which shall not exceed the maximum amount of $7,500 per structure. This practice must be maintained for a minimum of 15 years.

**Grassed Waterway:** Grassy vegetation in an area of concentrated flow can greatly reduce erosion. A grassed waterway is typically a constructed, shallow channel that is shaped and vegetated to provide for stable conveyance of runoff. This practice is not appropriate where its construction would destroy significant woody vegetation, and where the present watercourse is not seriously degraded and can convey existing flows. If the design dictates use of a tile beneath the waterway, consideration must be given to installation of an appropriately sized grass buffer which will remove waterborne pollutants prior to the water's entry through the tile inlet. (Refer to "Tile Riser Grassed Buffer" practice description.) Cost-share for tile installation will be limited to an 8" diameter tile (or equivalent cost) unless prior approval is obtained from LARE staff. This practice will be cost-shared at 80% of the actual cost of installation which shall not exceed the maximum amount of $10.00 per linear foot. This practice must be maintained for a minimum of 10 years.

**Heavy Use Area Protection (HUAP):** This practice is used to establish areas of frequent use by animals and vehicles with use of vegetative cover and/or suitable materials that can include a proper foundation such as course gravel, crushed stone, or other suitable material and/or geotextile on all sites that need increased load bearing strength, drainage, separation of material, and soil refinement. The practice applies to agricultural and urban areas that are intensively used requiring treatment to address one or more resource concerns. This practice will be cost-shared at 80% of the actual cost of installation and shall not exceed the maximum of $1,500.00 per site. Please reference FOTG Practice 561 for suitable seeding guidelines for vegetative cover. This practice must be maintained for a minimum of 10 years.

**Livestock Stream Crossing:** A livestock stream crossing is eligible for cost-share payment as a component of exclusion fencing. This practice will be cost-shared at 80% of the actual cost of installation but shall not exceed the maximum amount of $1,500.00 per site. This practice must be maintained for a minimum of 20 years.

**Livestock Watering Facility:** A livestock watering site can be strategically located to provide an acceptable water supply for livestock. This practice is applicable in situations where current livestock watering methods are utilizing environmentally sensitive areas such as streams, lakes, ponds, sinkhole ponds, or wetlands as a source of water, thereby resulting in detrimental impacts to surface/ground water quality. Installations often require the use of crushed stone to provide a suitable base for the tank or trough and, in the case of spring developments, require the installation of a water collection system at the spring outflow site, and underground pipeline to direct water to the container. Components eligible for cost-sharing are troughs or tanks, pipeline, materials for a suitable base (e.g., crushed stone), water collection systems (spring developments), vegetative cover, and alternative (i.e., non-traditional) pumps such as solar, wind, or nose pumps. A conservative approach shall be utilized in approving the purchase of typically non-traditional pumping equipment, (i.e., the most cost-effective water delivery system

shall be utilized). Typically, it is appropriate to install a Heavy Use Area Protection practice as a component of the watering system installation and can be cost-shared separately. All applications will be reviewed by the LARE project manager to ensure appropriateness, feasibility, and cost-effectiveness. While electrical components can be included in the installation, cost-sharing for electrical components, wiring or connections shall be limited to the items necessary to produce, store, and provide the electricity to the solar pump system, i.e., solar panel(s), wiring, switches, etc., as needed to provide a conduit for the electricity from the solar panel(s) to the pump. Livestock watering facilities should be part of a prescribed grazing plan. This practice will be cost-shared at 80% of the actual cost of installation which shall not exceed the maximum amount of $1,500 per facility. This practice must be maintained for a minimum of 10 years.

**Livestock Watering Impoundment:** Is only eligible for LARE cost-share funding when livestock access to a lake, river, or stream causes ecological damage and fencing the livestock out of the lake, river, or stream and providing an alternative watering site via an impoundment is the most feasible and cost-effective option.

A conservative approach shall be utilized in the approval of applications for funding of Livestock Water Impoundments. In addition, all applications will be reviewed by the LARE project manager to ensure appropriateness, feasibility, and cost-effectiveness.

Design Criteria:

1. The impoundment must be of the embankment type, not an excavated pit
2. Water in the impoundment shall be of sufficient depth and surface area to ensure its quality and quantity for livestock and to prevent freezing of the impounded water to the point where it is unavailable for livestock use
3. The impoundment shall be sized solely to accommodate livestock watering needs, with no consideration for recreational purposes
4. Fencing must be installed to exclude the livestock from the affected lake or stream
5. All actions associated with the impoundment (design, construction, operation, and maintenance, etc.) shall be in accordance with NRCS Standards and Specifications (FOTG Standard 378- Pond). The General criteria for embankment and excavated "ponds" shall be utilized to determine limitations/requirements for vegetation (buffers) and livestock access.
6. The cost-share shall apply only to earthwork, seeding, and a mechanism to transport water to the downstream toe of the dam

Cost-share for the watering device at the downstream toe of the dam and for additional watering sites utilizing the same impoundment may be available by utilizing the LARE "Livestock Watering Facility" practice (Pipeline, watering device, and installation). Livestock watering impoundments should be part of a prescribed grazing plan. This practice will be cost-shared at 80% of the actual cost of installation which shall not exceed the maximum amount of $5,000 per facility. This practice must be maintained for a minimum of 10 years.

**Pasture and Hayland Planting:** It can be beneficial to establish or re-establish long-term stands of adapted species of perennial, biennial, or reseeding forage plants to reduce erosion on existing low-quality pasture/hayland or to transform heavily eroding land to a more productive use. The landuser can not only benefit economically but reduce erosion which impairs water quality as well. The USDA-NRCS FOTG states that, *for erosion control* (which is the intent of this practice), a grass-legume mixture should be selected, rather than a single variety stand such as alfalfa. This practice will be cost-shared at 80% of the actual cost of installation which shall not exceed the maximum amount of $150 per acre. This practice must be maintained for a minimum of 5 years.

**Pollinator Plots:** Habitat enhancement for native pollinators on farms, especially with native plants, provides multiple benefits. In addition to supporting pollinators, native plant habitat will attract beneficial insects that feed on crop pests and lessen the need for pesticides. Pollinator habitat can also provide habitat for other wildlife, such as birds, serve as windbreaks, help stabilize the soil, and improve water quality. Undeveloped areas on and close to farms can serve as long-term refuge for native wild pollinators. The SWCD should work with the LARE project manager to determine seeding mix appropriate for the watershed's location in the state. This practice will be cost-shared at 80% of the actual cost but shall not exceed the maximum amount of $650.00 per acre. This practice must be maintained for a minimum of 5 years.

**Streambank Protection:** Vegetation and/or structures can be effectively used to stabilize and protect the banks of streams or channels from scour and erosion. This reduces sediment loads that cause downstream damages and pollution and can also improve the stream for recreation and as habitat for fish and wildlife. Regional IN DNR biologists and foresters possess knowledge that may be useful in evaluating project sites and developing appropriate plans, so their inclusion in the planning process is encouraged. This practice applies where streambanks are susceptible to erosion from the action of water or ice, or to damage from livestock. If the affected stream is a "regulated drain" subject to county jurisdiction, it is essential that any project be approved during the planning stage by the county drainage board. Some projects may require regulatory permits from IN DNR, IDEM, or the Army Corps of Engineers, which should be ascertained prior to construction. This practice will be cost-shared at 80% of the actual cost of installation which shall not exceed the maximum amount of $125.00 per foot. This practice must be maintained for a minimum of 20 years.

**Tree Planting:** Establishing a stand of trees can help to control erosion, conserve soil, and retain moisture. This can aid in flood reduction, sedimentation control, and wildlife habitat improvement. Water quality benefits can be derived from plantings adjacent to streams which provide shade and act as a food source and reduce streambank erosion. Mature trees can also serve as barriers to erosion-causing winds. Professional assistance regarding species selection and planting regimes can be solicited from IN DNR district foresters or private consulting foresters and is encouraged. This practice will be cost-shared at 80% of the actual cost of installation which shall not exceed the maximum amount of $600 per acre, which includes one year of follow-up herbicide treatment. This practice must be maintained for a minimum of 15 years.

**Waste Management System and Waste Utilization:** Livestock waste must be properly managed, from both economic and environmental perspectives. A planned management system is a means of assuring proper storage and/or usage of the manure. A well-designed system prevents or minimizes degradation of air, soil, and water resources and protects public health and safety. Systems prevent discharge of pollutants to surface or ground water and allow the waste to be recycled through soil and plants. A waste management system allows for more effective utilization of animal waste and minimizes nutrient and bacteria levels in runoff from barnyards and feedlots. An appropriately sized storage lagoon or waste pit allows producers to spread and incorporate the manure when conditions are ideal, e.g., during peak crop nutrient demand periods, thus reducing commercial fertilizer costs. This also reduces wear on transfer equipment that would otherwise be in continuous operation. A proper system must include an environmentally acceptable strategy for utilizing the waste, which is a prerequisite to cost-sharing on construction of a containment facility. Manure *dry stacking* facilities are appropriate for handling waste and are also eligible for cost-sharing. This practice will be cost-shared at 80% of the actual cost of installation which shall not exceed the maximum amount of $30,000 per facility. In addition, the 80% rate shall be applied toward the lesser of the estimated or actual cost of *waste utilization* (with the maximum being $0.01/gallon, $0.075/cubic foot or $2.50 per ton). Cost-share funds for waste management are only to be made available to resolve existing livestock waste problems. Funds will not be made available for expansion of a facility to accommodate additional animals, or for new facilities. Cost-share funds for waste utilization will not be made available to any land user for more than 3 years, with a maximum total disbursement of $30,000. A containment system must be maintained for a minimum of 15 years and waste utilization practices for 1 year.

**Waste Storage Facilities Closure:** Animal waste storage facilities provide a means to adequately store livestock waste until the arrival of an opportune time to land-apply the waste. Most livestock producers apply animal waste at an agronomically appropriate rate and time for plant uptake of the nutrients that are within the animal waste. Over time, solids, and sludge, which at times can be difficult to handle with traditional waste handling equipment, can accumulate in a waste storage facility. These solids and sludge contain high levels of nutrients. When a livestock waste facility is no longer in use, the management of these structures is typically ignored. The potential exists for negative impacts to water quality should any of the stored waste leach into groundwater or overtop the facility and enter nearby surface waters. Closure of a facility should involve actions such as (but not limited to) the demolition of a concrete or block structure, removal of a synthetic lagoon liner, or placement of earthen fill in a pond or lagoon. The specific practice category under which funding would be made available would not include cost-share funds for removal of waste material itself, but that specific action could be addressed through the “Waste Utilization” practice.

Livestock waste storage facilities may no longer be in use in cases of, for example:

- Producer ceased livestock production due to economic reasons, retirement, etc.
- Remodeling or upgrading of livestock production facilities

- Previous problems with the no longer used storage facility

This practice, CLOSURE OF LIVESTOCK WASTE STORAGE FACILITIES, shall be eligible for LARE funding under the following conditions:

- This practice is applicable where an existing waste storage facility is no longer needed or no longer useable.
- This practice is also applicable in situations where an existing waste storage facility is causing, or threatens to cause, a water quality problem.
- Eligible projects include storage facilities ordered closed by a regulatory agency, except when an enforcement action is underway that is specific to the storage facility.
- LARE "Waste Utilization" cost-share funds may be used to help with the cost of waste removal.

All actions associated with the closure shall follow USDA-NRCS Standards and Specifications (FOTG Standard 360-Closure of Waste Impoundments) and shall include a waste utilization plan to direct the application of the animal waste. This practice will be cost-shared at 80% of the actual cost of installation which shall not exceed the maximum amount of $10,000 per site.

**Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOBs):** Low earthen embankments or ridges can be constructed across slopes or minor watercourses to form sediment traps/water detention basins. They allow otherwise erodible areas to be stabilized so that they can still be cropped. A WASCOB can provide sufficient detention to trap larger soil particles but may not remove smaller silt and clay particles from water that is discharged through the outlet tile. Outlets can serve as direct conduits for pesticides and nutrients transported by the runoff they convey to streams and lakes. Therefore, it is required that any WASCOB construction be accompanied by appropriate installation of grassed buffer areas to remove pollutants that would otherwise be directed through tiles into streams or lakes. (Refer to "Tile Riser Grassed Buffer" and "Watercourse Outlet Buffer" practice descriptions.) WASCOBs can be appropriate in settings where the terrain is too steep for grassed waterways but are not to be considered to allow overly steep slopes to be cropped; such fields would best be converted to other uses. Cost-share assistance should be provided for WASCOBs only on a limited basis when erosion is severe and other measures are not practicable. In those cases, tile inlets shall be protected by appropriate buffers or the outlets should discharge over/through additional appropriately designed filter strips or through constructed or existing wetlands before discharging into streams or lakes. Cost share for tile installation will be limited to an 8" diameter tile (or equivalent cost) unless prior approval is obtained from LARE staff. This practice will be cost-shared at 80% of the actual cost of installation which shall not exceed the maximum amount of $1,700 per basin. This practice must be maintained for a minimum of 10 years.

The following guidance shall be applied to construction of WASCOB buffer areas: At a minimum, the area included within a 20-foot radius from the riser, along with the channel

and the front slope (riser side) of the ridge, shall be seeded in accordance with USDA-NRCS standard, "Filter Strip 393" seeding recommendations. (A larger area may need to be vegetated based on slope and chemical setback criteria). It is not intended that the front slope of the ridge be cropped. It should be constructed at as steep a slope as possible, to minimize the need for fill material, but not so steep as to preclude mowing. The cost of seeding will be covered as part of construction. For existing or new WASCOBs an incentive payment of $400 will only be available when the buffer area is extended to a 66-foot radius around the riser and to the top of the ridge. (Refer to "Tile Riser Grassed Buffer" practice policy.)

**Wetland Development or Improvement:** Wetlands have many beneficial attributes including 1) supporting forest, fish, and wildlife resources; 2) retaining and gradually releasing floodwater; 3) recharging ground water; 4) reducing the impacts of eroded soil and nutrients on the ecology of lakes and streams; 5) providing areas for recreation; and 6) sustaining rare and endangered organisms. Approximately 85% of Indiana's original wetlands have been drained or filled, so it has become increasingly more important to protect and/or restore wetlands whenever possible. This practice provides for the creation of an artificial wetland or the restoration of a previously drained wetland by constructing a dike or dam, filling a surface drain, or removing a subsurface drain. This practice will be cost-shared at 80% of the actual cost of installation which shall not exceed the maximum amount of $2,500 per acre. This practice must be maintained for a minimum of 15 years.

# IN DNR DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE
# LARE

***Incentive Payments and Cost-Share Rates***

## INCENTIVE PAYMENTS

| PRACTICE | INCENTIVE PAYMENT |
|---|---|
| Blind Tile Inlet | $1,500.00 each |
| Critical Area Planting | $600.00 per acre |
| Filter Strip | $650.00 per acre (maximum of 66 feet wide) |

Appropriate widths will be based on selected purpose(s) from NRCS standard - Filter Strip (393)

| | |
|---|---|
| Tile Riser Grassed Buffer | $400.00 each |

## COST-SHARE PRACTICES

### THE FOLLOWING PRACTICES WILL BE COST-SHARED AT 80% OF THE ACTUAL COST OF INSTALLATION WHICH SHALL NOT EXCEED THE MAXIMUM COST-SHARE AMOUNT

| PRACTICE | MAXIMUM COST-SHARE AMOUNT |
|---|---|
| Conservation Tillage | $20.00 per acre |
| Cover Crop | $35.00 per acre |
| Diversion | $4.50 per foot |
| Fencing | $3.00 per foot |
| Field Windbreak | $600.00 per acre |
| Grade Stabilization Structure | $7,500.00 per structure |
| Grassed Waterway | $10.00 per linear foot |
| Heavy Use Area Protection | $1,500.00 per site |
| Livestock Stream Crossing | $1,500.00 per site |
| Livestock Watering Facility | $1,500.00 per facility |
| Livestock Watering Impoundment | $5,000.00 per facility |
| Pasture and Hayland Planting | $150.00 per acre |
| Pollinator Plots | $650.00 per acre |
| Streambank Protection | $125.00 per foot |
| Tree Planting | $600.00 per acre |
| Waste Management System | |
| Containment system | $30,000.00 per facility |
| Waste utilization | $0.01 per gallon |
| | $0.075 per cubic ft. or |
| | $2.50 per ton |
| Closure of Waste Storage Facility | $10,000.00 per facility |
| Water and Sediment Control Basin (WASCOB) | $1,700.00 per basin |
| Wetland Development & Improvement | $2,500.00 per acre |