

Watershed Agricultural Program Guideline

4.3.03

BMP REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT

The intent of this guideline is to establish eligibility and prioritization criteria for the repair or replacement of aging/failing BMPs. A failing BMP is defined as one that is not functioning in a way that will produce the environmental benefits for which it was designed. An aging BMP is one that is approaching or that exceeds its expected lifespan. The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), which establishes the standards and specifications for most of the BMPs used by WAC, defines “lifespan” as the minimum time period in which the BMPs are to be maintained and used for their intended purpose. Many BMPs, if properly maintained, continue to function as designed beyond their minimum lifespan.

This guideline describes a process for: (1) identifying and evaluating aging/failing BMPs that are still needed for water quality protection, (2) incorporating BMP repair or replacement into the existing Whole Farm Plan revision process, and (3) prioritizing BMPs for repair or replacement

A. Whole Farm Plan Annual Status Review and BMP Evaluation

WAP staff will conduct annual farm status reviews on all active farms, which shall serve as the process for identifying and evaluating BMP functionality and determining the need for BMP repair or replacement.

1. Each BMP has a life span. This is the minimum period of time that the practice, with normal maintenance, can be expected to function as designed. Many BMPs last well beyond this life span. It is the Participant/Producer’s responsibility to properly operate and maintain the BMP as per this agreement while the BMP continues to function as installed.

It is the intent of the Watershed Agricultural Program that the BMP continues to be operated as intended beyond the life span as long as it serves a water quality protection need and fits the farming operation.

If at any time, the BMP fails to operate as intended, contact the Watershed Agricultural Program. If the BMP failure is determined to be outside of normal Operation and Maintenance it will be eligible for the Repair and Replacement Program.

(The above language will be included in all O&M Agreements)

2. If a BMP is failing or not functioning as designed, the Whole Farm Plan (WFP) will be eligible for a revision. Note: Each year during the development of WAP’s annual work plan, farms requiring revisions will be prioritized and scheduled for revision.(see guideline “WFP Revision Prioritization 4.x.x”)

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3. If a BMP has exceeded its lifespan and does not meet current WAC or NRCS standards, the BMP may be eligible for repair or replacement. The BMP will be evaluated for its ability to meet water quality protection goals.

B. Whole Farm Plan Revisions

1. During the WFP Revision process, WAP staff will evaluate the efficacy of all implemented BMPs using the Environmental Review Problem Diagnosis (ERPD) or Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) assessment tools as well as current WAC or NRCS standards.
2. If the hydrologic connection of a pollutant source to a water course has an affect on water quality, this may warrant a repair, replacement or a modification to the BMP.
3. Extending or renewing O&M agreements for repaired or replaced structural BMPs will be considered a high priority to ensure the BMPs continue to be managed in a way that maintains their efficacy.
4. The following will **not** be considered for funding under this guideline:
 - a. BMPs that are no longer needed in accordance with the ERPD or AEM assessment tools.
 - b. Certain equipment (rolling stock) and agronomic practices (fertility, lime, seeding).
 - c. BMPs that are damaged or destroyed due to the negligence of program participants, their employees, agents or subcontractors.
 - d. BMPs that were not properly managed according to landowner O&M requirements.

C. BMP Repair or Replacement Prioritization

Each year the Planning and Implementation (P & I) Group will set aside a sum of funding for each implementation area following the 3.x.x “BMP Prioritization Guideline”