# AG. WATER QUALITY ACT



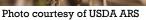




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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

**FUNDING ASSISTANCE** 

**IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS** 

# WATER CONTROL STRUCTURE

# CROPS BMP #15



<u>Description:</u> A device that is added to a new or existing tile drainage system that allows for regulation of the water table in tiled fields.

#### **AWQA Minimum Requirements:**

- Install water control structure and regulate flow in a manner that reduces nutrient, pathogen, and pesticide delivery to receiving water.
- Manipulate the water table to reduce oxidation of organic matter when fields are not in production.

# Recommendations:

Install water control structures in new or existing tile drainage systems to reduce nutrient, pathogen, and pesticide pollution

from agricultural fields. Install at the edge of fields to minimize impact to production. Regulate the water table in a manner that achieves desired management goals for soil organic matter conservation and wildlife habitat. Reduce crop water stress

during the growing season by raising the water table to the lower extent of the rooting zone. Consult with an extension agent regarding the suitability of your soils for achieving benefits from a water control structure.

# **Technical References**

# **University Publications**

- **University of Kentucky College of** Agriculture Extension publications.
- **Drainage Water Management for the** Midwest, Fact Sheet WO-44
- Agricultural Water Table Management Systems, Fact Sheet AEX <u>321-97</u>

# **USDA/NRCS Publications**

- Practice Code 554 Drainage Water **Management**
- Practice Code 587 Structure for Water Control
- USDA, NRCS. 2001. National Engineering Handbook, Part 624, Sec. 16, Drainage of agricultural land.
- USDA, NRCS. 2001. National Engineering Handbook, Part 650, Engineering Field Handbook, Chapter 14, Water management (Drainage).

# **Funding Assistance Options**

# State Cost Share

See your local Conservation District to apply.

### Kentucky Ag. Development Fund (KADB/KAFC)

Select from available program options here.

# NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Select from available program options here.

# **Important Considerations**

Water Quality Benefit (0-0000): 00 (KEY: =good, =best: see STEPL Model)

# Wildlife Benefits

Contact the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife's Habitat Improvement Program on how to improve wildlife habitat with select BMPs (1-800-858-1549).