

What is a farm pond in Prince William County?

- NOT for stormwater management purposes
- Property zoned A-1
- Primary use will be to water livestock or irrigate cropland
- Minimum number of acres of cropland shall not be less than 2 acres
- Stocking rate of livestock cannot exceed densities set in current County zoning ordinances

What steps do I take to install a farm pond in Prince William County?

1. Work with Soil and Water District to confirm primary use will be for agriculture and to develop grading plan of pond/area showing any offsite drainage
2. Ideally the Soil and Water District would write a soil and water quality conservation plan with recommendations for the agricultural use of the pond and property
3. Bring plan to the County Complex (Watershed Management Office) to discuss any approvals needed such as Zoning and/or Watershed Management, a Land Disturbance Permit if the disturbance is > 2,500 square feet of area will be required
4. For land disturbance > 5000 square feet an engineered site plan maybe required
5. If wetlands or RPA (Resource Protection Area) or floodplain or other sensitive environmental areas present pond may not be allowed, pond should not be constructed in a stream or alter natural stream flow or affect downstream properties, all information provided is subject to site visit verification by the County or other appropriate state or federal agency
6. Generally if pond is designed to meet the NRCS practice standard 378, private engineer certification is not required.
7. Soil and Water District or the County will provide erosion and sediment control recommendations during construction and conduct inspections as needed (County may take enforcement action, if needed)

Anything else I should know?

- General requirements for grading plan include showing limits of clearing and grading, pond dimensions clearly specified, as well as estimated water level and erosion and sediment control measures to be used
- Five-foot contour map is acceptable for smaller ponds in lieu of required 2-foot contours. Location of 100-year floodplain or RPA must be clearly identified on plan, pond construction should not impact RPA or floodplain area
- Plan shall provide specific information on the embankment, including type of material, compaction method, vegetative cover, spillway height; depending on embankment height, it could be subject to Virginia Dam Safety requirements, check with Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Planting of trees on the earthen dam structure is not recommended
- Pond Outlet should be specified (i.e. riser pipe, culvert, spillway, etc.), landscaping should be included with pond design

For More Information

Contact Prince William County Watershed Management at 703-792-7070