

DIKE

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service – Practice Code 356



PRACTICE NAME

A dike is an embankment constructed of earthen or other suitable material to protect land against overflow or to regulate water.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

Dikes or levees can be used where the control of water level is desired. They are used to prevent or reduce flood damage to people and property, for flow control in conjunction with floodways, to impound or regulate water for fish and wildlife management, or to manage water for cranberry production.

Dikes for cranberry water management include perimeter and interior dikes to temporarily impound water for harvesting, trash removal, pest control, winter flooding or other management purposes.

Dikes are used to prevent wetlands and to form wetlands. The formed areas may be fresh, brackish or saltwater wetlands. In tidal areas dikes are used to stop saltwater intrusion, and to increase the hydraulic head of fresh water which will force intruded saltwater out the aquifer.

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Dikes are commonly used in a Conservation Management System with the following practices:

- Structure for Water Control,
- Land Smoothing,
- Irrigation Water Management,
- Nutrient Management,
- Pest Management.

Refer to the practice standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide and associated specifications and Job Sheets for further information.

The following page identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.