



# CLEAN WATER FARM AWARD

## *About the Awards*

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation is proud to sponsor the Clean Water Farm Award and Bay Friendly Farm Award. Virginia farmers who implement nutrient management plans and are exemplary in their protection of the state's soil and water quality deserve recognition and thanks. These individuals are role models who encourage other's stewardship.

Farmers spend time, energy, and hard-earned money carrying out conservation practices that benefit many people. They themselves benefit because *nutrients, pesticides, and chemicals* they invest in stay on the land – where they're most productive. The *soil* necessary to grow crops also stays put because of conservation planting techniques. When these potential pollutants are kept out of surface and ground waters, citizens benefit by having better water for drinking, recreation, industry, wildlife, and transportation.

## *Considering our environment*

Overuse of nutrients or using them at improper times, as well as soil loss, creates water quality problems in Virginia and for the Chesapeake Bay. It's important to manage nutrients that are in commercial fertilizer or manure for our environment. Maintaining adequate distances from wells, stream and wetlands, and limiting applications on lands with high water tables and on soils with a high potential for leaching to the groundwater are part of a complete nutrient management program. Controlling erosion, maintaining well-vegetated buffer areas, and choosing the right crop for the soil are all techniques that help protect water quality.

Nutrient management has proven profitable for many Virginia agricultural producers. These producers work with the Department of Conservation and Recreation technical specialists and other agency personnel to determine site-specific, customized methods of reducing potential pollutants that rain might carry off their fields. The results are usually more efficient production and improved quality in nearby waters.

Manufacturing and processing plants, in many cases, are required to spend millions of dollars each year to recycle wastes, control emissions, conserve energy, and properly treat water so that it leaves facilities clean or cleaner than before it got there. In Virginia, farmers voluntarily incorporate nutrient management and other environmental safeguards within agriculture operations as their contribution toward protecting water quality for citizens throughout the Commonwealth.

## *The winners are. . .*

If you are a farmer who is following all recommendations in your custom, site-specific nutrient management plan, you can be nominated to receive the Clean Water Farm Award or Bay Friendly Farm Award. The former is for farms located in areas of Virginia outside the Chesapeake Bay watershed; the latter is given to farms where conservation measures positively impact the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay.

Anyone may nominate a farmer or farm for a Clean Water Farm Award and Bay Friendly Farm Award. Simply contact a local soil and water conservation district for assistance completing an application. Virginia's 46 soil and water conservation districts decide local winners, who can represent any of the 94 counties and 16 cities SWCDs comprise. If you win, you will receive a certificate signed by the governor and a sign to display proudly at your farm. Previous Clean Water Farm Award local and state winners are eligible; you can win the award more than once.

*Above and beyond the local award, one farmer (farm) representing each of Virginia's 10 major river basins is chosen for outstanding management to improve water quality. These 10 winners receive an additional award, to be presented at a special recognition ceremony.*

## **Thank you, Virginia's farmers, for conserving the Commonwealth's natural resources.**

**Farmers are often called the original environmentalists.** They understand that actions on land relate to the health of the state's waterways. For that reason, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation congratulates those who use conservation practices that address threats to water quality.

Please fill out and mail the following application to:

Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Division of Soil and Water Conservation  
203 Governor Street, Suite 206  
Richmond, Virginia 23219



**Application**  
**Clean Water Farm Award / Bay Friendly Farm Award**  
 (To be completed for farms with nutrient management plans)

Name of Farmer or Farm: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Farm Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone #: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 River Basin: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hydrologic Unit: \_\_\_\_\_  
 UTM Coordinate of Clean Water Farm Award sign: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nominated by (identify organization): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Form completed by (name of individual): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date completed: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Crops (list)</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Planting Practices</u> (no-till, conservation tillage, etc.)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Planting Practices</u> (no-till, conservation tillage, etc.)
Pasture	_____	_____
Woodland	_____	_____

Livestock (circle one):            Yes                    No

If yes, state amount of each:

_____ Beef	_____ Dairy
_____ Poultry	_____ Hogs
_____ Veal	_____ Other (specify farming operation)

Specify: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include separate sheets if the “comment” sections are inadequate.**

**Clean Water Farm Award / Bay Friendly Farm Award Criteria**  
**(Note: Check if applicable. If not applicable, please mark N/A.)**

- Implements nutrient management plan (farms not meeting this criteria are ineligible)
  - \_\_\_\_ Date plan written \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_ Name of certified planner \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_ Certification # \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_ Apply manure/commercial fertilizer according to nutrient management plan
  - \_\_\_\_ Practice split application/side dress fertilizer
  - \_\_\_\_ Uses manure storage facility to properly manage nutrients
  - \_\_\_\_ Calibrates nutrient application equipment
  - \_\_\_\_ Uses pre-side dress nitrogen test to determine nitrogen application rates

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Uses or has installed conservation practices
  - \_\_\_\_ Practices no-till
  - \_\_\_\_ Uses cover crops
  - \_\_\_\_ Limits access to streams by animals
  - \_\_\_\_ Manages pasture land to minimize erosion through rotational grazing
  - \_\_\_\_ Implements soil and water conservation practices on farm as recommended in farm conservation plan.
  - \_\_\_\_ Has up-to-date conservation plan Specify date \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_ Drainage swales are protected with sod waterways on cropland
  - \_\_\_\_ Has reduced sheet/rill erosion to less than "T" (or to SWCD standard)
  - \_\_\_\_ Has eliminated gully erosion
  - \_\_\_\_ Conventional BMPs installed voluntarily (describe separately)
  - \_\_\_\_ Farmer-designed, site-specific, effective BMPs (describe separately)

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Practices pesticide management methods
  - \_\_\_\_ Scouts fields for insects, weeds and diseases, and uses established thresholds when applying pesticides
  - \_\_\_\_ Spray equipment is properly calibrated
  - \_\_\_\_ Empty pesticide containers are properly disposed (triple-rinsed, recycled, etc.)
  - \_\_\_\_ Has a restricted use pesticide certificate issued by Commonwealth of Virginia

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Has a farm conservation plan  
 What type of plan(s)?  
 Written IPM plan  
 Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department Plan  
 Farm Bill Compliance Plan  
 Total Resource Conservation Plan  
 Forest Stewardship Plan  
 Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- Outreach and/or educational activities or programs  
 Field days/research plot work are conducted on farm for other farmers and general public to observe  
 Farm open to local school students/teachers  
 Belong to ag. or conservation organization. Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**I have reviewed the above assessment and it accurately reflects conservation on my farm.**

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**Farmer's Signature**

**SWCD Review**

*(This section to be completed by SWCD)*

At the \_\_\_\_\_ meeting of the \_\_\_\_\_ SWCD Board,  
 (date) (District)

the preceding information was evaluated and approved, and considers the nominee to be in compliance with federal, state and local conservation compliance regulations. Because of exemplary use of conservation practices in his/her operation, the nominee is hereby recognized as a Virginia Clean Water Farm Award winner. \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

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(District Director)

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Date of Board's Approval  
 (As shown in District Minutes)