We help you do your share.

Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program

Virginia's Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program offers more than 70 conservation practices that cover the full spectrum of agricultural operations. Whether you grow crops, raise livestock or produce poultry, there are BMPs that can benefit you.

While all of the practices are known to improve or protect water quality, many also can increase your farm's productivity by conserving soil and making wise use of other agricultural resources.

Practices that may be funded: (a partial list)

- Controlling erosion
- Stream fencing and alternative watering systems
- Restoring streamside buffers
- Planting cover crops
- Establishing rotational grazing
- Planting tree seedlings in open land
- Preserving wetlands
- Protecting sinkholes
- Stabilizing eroding stream banks
- Managing nutrients, including animal waste

The Virginia Agricultural BMP Cost-Share Program (VACS) has distributed more than $200 million to farmers and landowners since its inception. The program is administered by local soil and water conservation districts.

A few things to note

The program year begins July 1 and demand for assistance can be great, so timely applications are encouraged. Contact your local soil and water conservation district for application deadlines.

Individuals, partnerships, corporations, trusts or other businesses operating farms in Virginia may qualify for cost-share assistance.

Projects must:

- Be approved in advance by your local soil and water conservation district board.
- Meet technical specifications of the VACS program.
- Pass a field inspection, if one is required, prior to receiving payment.
- Be subject to spot checks throughout the project lifespan.

Tax credits

State income tax credits are available for the purchase and use of certain conservation equipment and for specified best management practices. Ask your district for information.

DCR
Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation

A partnership between the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and Virginia's 47 Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

VIRGINIA'S SWCD SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Don't know your local district? Find contact information at www.vaswcd.org.

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