



COST-SHARE PROGRAMS & FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR VIRGINIA



Below are some programs that provide technical assistance and financial incentives for approved conservation practices. All programs are voluntary. When inquiring, ask how a conservation easement applies. Agency contact information is in this packet.

Conservation Practice: Land practice that enhances or protects water quality, soils, and wildlife habitat. May include installing pollinator habitat or managing land with a Conservation Plan.



Best Management Practice (BMP): one or a combination of practices that are effective and practicable in reducing or preventing the amount of pollution that runs off from land into nearby waterways.

Not only do BMPs protect water quality and promote wildlife habitat, but they often also increase land productivity by conserving soil, making wise use of fertilizers, lowering disease rates for livestock, and providing habitat for wildlife, fish, and game.



Riparian Buffer: Forested or vegetated area along a waterway that helps provide shade and is vital to protecting water quality by filtering toxins that run off from adjacent land.

Virginia Department of Forestry

Pine bark beetle prevention program

Provides landowners with financial incentives to conduct pine thinnings and/or longleaf pine restoration on appropriate sites to reduce the occurrence and impact of bark beetle outbreaks.

More Information: <http://dof.virginia.gov/costshare/health/pbbp.htm>



Reforestation of timberlands

Provides cost-share assistance to landowners for pine reforestation..

More Information: <http://dof.virginia.gov/costshare/rt.htm>

Riparian forest buffer tax credit

Provides an incentive to landowners through a tax credit for preserving riparian forest buffers along waterways during a timber harvest operation.

More Information: <http://dof.virginia.gov/tax/credit/riparianbuffer/index.htm>

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related natural resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland.

More Information: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/va/programs/financial/eqip/>



Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Provides payments to qualifying participants that take additional steps to improve resource condition including soil quality, water quality, water quantity, air quality, habitat quality, or energy.

More Information: www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/va/programs/financial/csp/

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Each year, organizations collaborate with NRCS to focus cost-share opportunities to specific areas for a limited time. Check with your local NRCS Service Center to learn more.

More Information: www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/farmbill/?cid=nrcseprd1307844

Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning Farmers, Veteran Farmers

Provides for voluntary participation, offers incentives, and focuses on equity in accessing USDA programs and services. Enhancements include streamlined delivery of technical and financial assistance; improved programs and services; and flexibility in decision-making.

More Information: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/people/outreach/slbfr/>

Virginia's Soil and Water Conservation District

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Pays farmers to turn floodplains and creek banks into buffers of trees, shrubs, or native grasses.

More Information: <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/crep>



Agricultural BMP Cost-Share (VACS) Program

The cost-share program supports the use of various practices in conservation planning to treat cropland, pastureland, hay land and forested land. Some are paid for at a flat rate or straight per-acre rate while others are cost-shared. In some cases, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) also pays a percentage.

More Information: <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/costshare2>



BMP Tax Credit Program

Agricultural producers with a conservation plan and installed Best Management Practices (BMP's) that are approved by the Soil and Water Conservation District may result in cost-share payments or a tax credit approval letter from their local SWCD.

More Information: <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/costshare3>

Other Cost-Share Resources

Depending on the type of management you would like for your property, additional programs may provide technical assistance or cost-share opportunities. Some examples:

Forests for the Bay (www.forestsforthebay.org)

Pheasants Forever (www.pheasantsforever.org)

National Wild Turkey Federation (www.nwtf.org)

Trout Unlimited (www.tu.org)

Ducks Unlimited (www.ducks.org)

The Nature Conservancy (www.nature.org)

If you have a project in mind and are unsure whom to reach out to, contact us, and we'll point you in the right direction.