



PETER FRANCISCO
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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Serving Buckingham and Cumberland Counties

Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share Program **For Conservation Practices**

July 1 – June 30 of Current Program Year

- **Purpose of Agricultural Cost-Share Program:**
 - **To provide financial assistance (share the cost) for the construction of agricultural conservation practices that will improve Virginia’s water quality**
 - Payment rates vary per practice; percentage rates and flat-rates
 - Tax Credit is offered on Out-of-Pocket Expenses
 - Some practices are ONLY eligible for tax credit, and not eligible for cost-share
- **Eligibility requirements (self-certifiable):**
 - For the purposes of the Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share Program, agricultural land shall be defined as “land being used in a BONA FIDE program of agricultural management and engaged in the production of agricultural, horticultural or forest products for market”.
 - The real estate must consist of a minimum of five contiguous acres and have verifiable gross receipts in excess of \$1,000 per year from the production or sale of agricultural, horticultural or forest products produced on the applicant’s agricultural land for each of the past three years.
- **Application approval is based on:**
 - Application ranking - applications are ranked for approval according to a conservation efficiency factor and adopted secondary considerations
 - Funding availability

Steps towards applying for Cost-share Funding

- Set up appointment/field visit with District staff
- Review available options/practices
- Fill out cost-share application (Part I) and W-9 form
- Design/cost-estimate will be drawn up by staff & reviewed by applicant
- Applications go before Board of Directors at a monthly meeting for review
- Construction cannot begin until practice is approved for funding & designs provided
- Project components must be installed according to designs and specifications provided by SWCD/DCR
- Cost-share payment is reimbursable after all components are installed and approved to meet specifications by District staff and invoices collected

For more information on the agricultural conservation practice program, contact:

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