



DCR and your local SWCD encourage you to seek any conservation assistance for which you might qualify. Other agencies that offer financial incentives and technical support include the USDA Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and the Virginia Department of Forestry.

JOIN OUR CONSERVATION PARTNERS

- Maintain farm productivity
- Receive technical assistance
- Earn funding for your efforts

THROUGH VACS, YOU CAN:

cost-share funds to farmers and landowners like you. water quality – it can help you pay for it, too. Since 1984, SWCDs have distributed nearly \$69 million in not only can help you do your share to improve Practices Cost-Share Program, or "VACS," your SWCD Through the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program, or "VACS," your SWCD the Chesapeake Bay originate from cropland. phosphorus and 38 percent of the nitrogen entering the Bay Report estimated that 41 percent of the source pollution. For example, the 2002 State of But agriculture also is a contributor to nonpoint address these issues. works with homeowners and municipalities to increases along with our state's population. DCR suburban lawns, golf courses and paved surfaces has source pollution is the primary reason. Run-off from Why do Virginia's waters need improving? Nonpoint

WE'LL HELP YOU DO YOUR SHARE

WE FUND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

VACS offers more than 50 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. That's because while all of the practices are known to improve or protect water quality, many also can increase farm productivity by conserving soil and making wise use of other agricultural resources.

ASK YOUR SWCD ABOUT FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR:

- Controlling erosion
- Stream fencing and alternative watering systems
- Restoring riparian areas
- Planting cover crops
- Managing pastures
- Restoring forests
- Preserving wetlands
- Protecting sinkholes
- Stabilizing streams
- Managing nutrients, including animal waste

As a farmer, you've probably heard the expression that "conservation pays."

You're interested in doing what's right for your farm and right for protecting our natural resources. But as a business owner, you need to weigh the cost and benefit of every farm investment.

The Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program, or "VACS," helps farmers balance their desire to be good stewards with the need to remain profitable. In fact, thousands have participated in this statewide program for more than two decades – just ask your neighbors.

VACS is administered by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and carried out by the Commonwealth's 47 Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Your local SWCD can help you implement the best management practices that make sense for your farming operation.

In fact, your SWCD often provides funding that will cover as much as 75 percent of your cost to implement conservation measures that can help improve water quality.

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL SWCD FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT HOW CONSERVATION PRACTICES CAN BENEFIT YOUR OPERATION:

APPOMATTOX RIVER SWCD	(804) 469-7297
BIG SANDY SWCD	(276) 566-4858
BIG WALKER SWCD	(276) 228-3513
BLUE RIDGE SWCD	(540) 483-5341
CHOWAN BASIN SWCD	(434) 634-2115
CLINCH VALLEY SWCD	(276) 889-4650
COLONIAL SWCD	(804) 932-4376
CULPEPER SWCD	(540) 825-8591
DANIEL BOONE SWCD	(276) 346-1658
EASTERN SHORE SWCD	(757) 787-0918
EVERGREEN SWCD	(276) 783-7280
HALIFAX SWCD	(434) 476-7923
HANOVER-CAROLINE SWCD	(804) 537-5225
HEADWATERS SWCD	(540) 248-6218
HENRICOPOLIS	(804) 501-5175
HOLSTON RIVER SWCD	(276) 628-8187
JAMES RIVER SWCD	(804) 957-6156
JOHN MARSHALL SWCD	(540) 347-3120
LAKE COUNTRY SWCD	(434) 738-0150
LONESOME PINE SWCD	(276) 926-6621
LORD FAIRFAX SWCD	(540) 868-1130
LOUDOUN SWCD	(703) 777-2075
MONACAN SWCD	(804) 556-4936
MOUNTAIN CASTLES SWCD	(540) 977-2698
MOUNTAIN SWCD	(540) 839-4616
NATURAL BRIDGE SWCD	(540) 463-7124
NEW RIVER SWCD	(276) 236-7191
NORTHERN NECK SWCD	(804) 333-3525
NORTHERN VIRGINIA SWCD	(703) 324-1460
PATRICK SWCD	(276) 694-3121
PEAKS OF OTTER SWCD	(540) 586-9195
PEANUT SWCD	(757) 357-7004
PETER FRANCISCO SWCD	(434) 983-4757
PIEDMONT SWCD	(434) 392-3782
PITTSYLVANIA SWCD	(434) 432-8146
PRINCE WILLIAM SWCD	(703) 594-3621
ROBERT E. LEE SWCD	(434) 352-2819
SCOTT COUNTY SWCD	(276) 386-9241
SHENANDOAH VALLEY SWCD	(540) 433-2853
SKYLINE SWCD	(540) 382-3262
SOUTHSIDE SWCD	(434) 542-5342
TAZEWELL SWCD	(276) 988-9588
THOMAS JEFFERSON SWCD	(434) 975-0224
THREE RIVERS SWCD	(804) 443-2327
TIDEWATER SWCD	(804) 693-3562
TRI COUNTY/ CITY SWCD	(540) 899-9492
VIRGINIA DARE SWCD	(757) 385-4775

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation programs, activities, and employment opportunities are available to all people regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, or disability. DCR is an affirmative action employer.  

CONSERVATION AND THE BOTTOM LINE

Virginia's Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program



YOU HAVE TO PRODUCE. YOU WANT TO CONSERVE. SEE YOUR SWCD.

Through the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program ("VACS"), your local SWCD can help you balance your desire to be a good steward with your need to remain profitable. Since 1984, SWCDs have distributed nearly \$69 million in cost-share funds to farmers and landowners like you.

Cost-share funding usually becomes available on July 1 for the following growing season. Demand for cost-share assistance can be great, so timely applications are encouraged. SWCD staff welcome your interest and often can assist you with the paperwork.

QUALIFY FOR VACS FUNDING

You may qualify for cost-share money if you:

- are an individual, partnership, corporation, trust or other business operating a farm in Virginia;
- there is a water quality issue on your farm that needs to be addressed; and you
- submit a complete and timely application to your SWCD.

In addition, your project must:

- be approved by your local SWCD board;
- meet VACS technical specifications; and
- pass a field inspection, if one is required.

There is a cap on the amount a farmer can receive annually from VACS. Check with your SWCD for details.

LOOK INTO TAX CREDIT

In addition, state income tax credits are available for the purchase and use of certain conservation equipment and for specified best management practices. Ask your SWCD for more information.

VACS offers more than 50 conservation practices that cover the full spectrum of agricultural operations. Here are a few of the practices with the greatest impact on water quality.

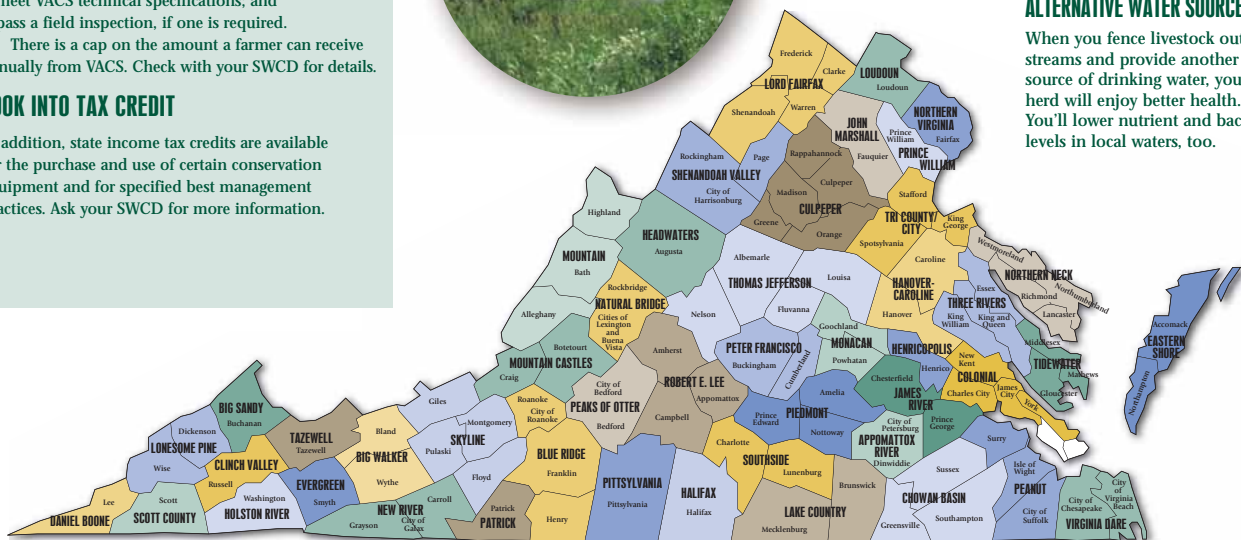
INSTALL A STREAMSIDE BUFFER

Planting trees, shrubs and herbaceous vegetation between field margins and streams creates habitat for enemies of crop pests and can limit your losses from flooding. Riparian buffers also filter nutrient runoff and prevent erosion.



FENCE STREAMS AND PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE WATER SOURCES.

When you fence livestock out of streams and provide another source of drinking water, your herd will enjoy better health. You'll lower nutrient and bacteria levels in local waters, too.



To learn more, contact your local SWCD. See back panel for contact information.



USE A PLAN TO MANAGE NUTRIENTS

Following a professionally developed nutrient management plan lets you maintain optimum conditions for crop growth while improving efficiency and even saving money. Plans also reduce the nutrients that leave your farm.



STABILIZE HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND

Grassed waterways, contoured strip cropping and stream bank stabilization control erosion so you can hold on to your valuable land. In addition, these practices keep sediment from choking streams.



PLANT YEAR-ROUND COVER

Implement a continuous system of year-round cover and you'll improve soil structure, suppress weeds and conserve moisture—all while reducing erosion. There's a cover crop to fit almost every rotation and production need.

At your local SWCD, we work with the people who work the land.