

Your farm may be eligible.

Virginia's Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) Cost-Share Program offers more than 75 conservation practices that cover the full spectrum of agricultural operations. Whether you grow crops, raise livestock or poultry, there are BMPs that can benefit you.

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



Lord Fairfax Soil and Water Conservation District
722-B East Queen Street, Strasburg VA 22657
(540) 465-2424 ext. 5
lfswcd.org

Cost-shared BMPs must maximize nutrient and sediment reductions while being cost-effective. To be eligible for the VACS program, the agricultural land must have at least five contiguous acres and produce at least \$1,000 of agricultural products.

Practices that may be funded: (a partial list)

- Stream exclusion fencing and alternative water systems
- Planting cover crops
- Establishing rotational grazing
- Restoring stream-side buffers
- Planting tree seedlings on hay, pasture or crop land
- Cropland conversion to pasture or hay production
- Managing nutrients, including animal waste storage

This program is overseen by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and administered by local soil and water conservation districts. The Virginia Agricultural BMP Cost-Share Program has allocated approximately \$5.5 million to the Lord Fairfax District for fiscal year 2024.

A few things to remember

The program year begins on July 1 and we are expecting a high demand for cost-share funds. Timely applications are encouraged.

Projects must:

- Be approved by the Lord Fairfax SWCD Board.
- Meet technical specifications for the VACS program.
- Pass a field inspection, as needed, prior to receiving reimbursement payment.
- Be subject to verification checks throughout the lifespan of the project.



Virginia Agricultural
Cost Share
Department of Conservation and Recreation
and Soil and Water Conservation Districts