

VA Conservation Program Purposes



Purpose	Eligible Land	CRP	CREP	CBWI	WHIP	EQIP	WRP	GRP	BMP	RT	WQIF
Buffers/ Corridors	Cropland	✓	CP-21, CP-22	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
	Pastureland		CP-22, CP-29	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Forest										
Fencing/ Exclusion	Pastureland		CP-22, CP-29	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Wildlife Habitat	Cropland	✓	CP-21, CP-22		✓	✓	✓		✓		
	Pastureland		CP-22, CP-29		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Forest				✓	✓	✓				
Wetland Restoration/ Enhancement	Cropland	✓	CP-23		✓	✓	✓		✓		
	Pastureland				✓	✓	✓		✓		
	Forest				✓	✓	✓				
Streambank Protection	Cropland	✓	CP-21, CP-22	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
	Pastureland		CP-22, CP-29	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Forest				✓	✓	✓				
Grazing Management	Pastureland		Use BMP SL-6 and/or SL-7	✓		✓	(watering systems)	✓	✓		
Reforestation	Forest	✓		✓		✓				✓	✓
Conservation Easements	Cropland		✓				✓				
	Pastureland		✓				✓	✓			
	Forest						✓				

Acronym Key: Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative (CBWI), Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), Best Management Practices (BMP), Reforestation of Timberlands (RT), Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF)

Virginia Farm Bill Conservation Programs



Program	Eligible Land	Eligible Practices	Agreement Length	Easement Payment	Standard Payment (Cost-Share)	Limited Resource, Beginning and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers	Contact Agency
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Private land in agricultural production: cropland, grassland, pastureland, and non-industrial forestland	Cropland erosion control, nutrient management, forest management, animal waste management, grazing land practices, wildlife habitat	1 – 5 years	N/A	Up to 75% of the average cost	Applications may be ranked in peer group, up to 90% average cost	NRCS
Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative (CBWI)	Agricultural producers within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed	Cropland erosion control, nutrient management, animal waste management, grazing land practices	1 – 5 years	N/A	Up to 75% of the average cost	Applications may be ranked in peer group, up to 90% average cost	NRCS
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP and CREP)	Cropland planted 4 of last 6 years (2002 – 2007), marginal pastureland	Watering troughs, pipelines, fencing, tree planting, buffers, plus many more	10 – 15 years + annual rental payments	CREP only, limited to \$1,000/acre	Signup incentive \$100/acre, 50% federal C/S + 25% state C/S + 40% practice incentive payment	Transition Incentives Program	DCR, FSA, NRCS
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	Cropland, hayland, pastureland, nonindustrial private forest lands	Activity enhancements including soil, air, and water quality, wildlife habitat, and forest management	5 Years	N/A	May not exceed \$40,000 in any year and \$200,000 during any 5-year period.		NRCS
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	Private land not currently enrolled in CRP, WRP or any similar USDA program	Field borders, hedgerows, warm season grasses, prescribed burning, firebreaks, wildlife habitat, plus many more	1 – 5 years	N/A	Practice installation payment	Applications may be ranked in peer group, up to 90% average cost	NRCS
Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)	Privately-owned grassland under threat of conversion to other uses	Pasture and hayland planting, fencing, troughs, pipeline, water well	Permanent easement or rental agreements (10/15/20 Year)	One-time or rental payments	50% of practice		NRCS
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)	Private wetlands converted to agricultural use before 1985 - must be restorable, and suitable for wildlife benefits	Wetland restoration or enhancement with dikes, tree planting, habitat management plus many more	Permanent easement, 30-year-term easement or 10-year restoration contract	One-time payment	100% (Permanent) or 75% (30-Year-Term Easement/Restoration Agreements)		NRCS

NRCS also works with qualified third-party entities to fund conservation easements to preserve productive agricultural land through the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP). If you are interested in an easement with a third party, please contact your local district conservationist for a list of potentially qualified entities.

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