

# HEADWATERS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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PHONE: 540-248-0148  
HeadwatersSWCD.org



We work with the people who work the land.

## ABOUT US

The Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is one of 47 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Formed in 1975, the Headwaters SWCD is a part of the state government which provides citizens the structure and the capability to solve conservation problems at a local grassroots level. Headwaters SWCD serves Augusta County and the Cities of Staunton and Waynesboro.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts administer Virginia's Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program, with technical assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Cooperation between agencies and sharing technical expertise enables the Headwaters SWCD to assist the community in protecting its natural resources. Outlined in this flyer are a few practices with the greatest impact on water quality and that offer considerable economic benefits. The Headwaters SWCD staff are happy to assist you with the application process or any questions you may have.

## AGRICULTURAL BMP COST-SHARE PROGRAMS

### STREAM FENCING AND ALTERNATIVE WATERING SYSTEMS

Fencing livestock out of streams reduces non-point source pollution by minimizing stream bank erosion and eliminating direct deposition of the bacteria associated with livestock waste. Benefits can include weight gain and fewer outbreaks of disease among cattle, greater forage production, and better pasture management and pasture quality. Additionally, keeping livestock out of local waters is critical to reducing bacteria levels and excess nitrogen that pollute many rivers and streams.

#### **Eligible Components**

- Exclusion and cross fence(s)
- Watering troughs and pipeline
- Well and pump components
- Stream crossing
- Other components deemed eligible

#### **Cost Share and/or Tax Credit Rates**

- Cost Share:
  - 80% of total estimated costs for projects with a 35' setback
  - 50% of total estimated costs for projects with a 10' setback
- Tax Credit: 25% of eligible out-of-pocket expenses, after Cost Share payment (if applicable)



### WINTER COVER CROPS

Cover crops prevent soil erosion caused by wind and rain and reduce runoff and take up excess nitrogen that otherwise would leach into groundwater. As biomass from crop residues accumulates, it improves soil structure and tilth, while also improving moisture retention and drought resistance. Farmers can experience reduced fertilizer costs and increased cash crop yields, especially when cover crops are combined with no-till practices.

#### **Eligible Small Grain Species**

- Rye, Wheat, Barley, Triticale
- Crimson Clover, Austrian Winter Pea, Hairy Vetch, etc.

#### **Cost Share Rates**

- \$20 per acre for harvestable small grain cover crops
- \$15-\$40 per acre for non-harvestable cover crops



*The commonwealth of Virginia supports the Headwaters SWCD through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.*

*Augusta County, City of Waynesboro and City of Staunton also support the Headwaters SWCD through financial assistance.*

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## ANIMAL WASTE STORAGE FACILITIES

Storage facilities are planned systems designed to manage liquid and/or solid waste from areas where livestock and poultry are concentrated. These facilities allow wastes to be stored and spread at the proper time, rate and location reducing pollution and helping control surface runoff to improve water quality.

### **Litter Storage Shed and/or Composting Facility**

- These facilities are designed for poultry producers who need litter storage or composting facilities to meet the needs of their operation.

### **Liquid Manure Pit**

- These facilities are designed for producers who need liquid storage for manure generated on their operation.

### **Dry Stack Manure Storage Facility**

- These facilities are designed for producers who need dry manure storage as a result of confined feeding on their operation.

### **Eligible Components of all Animal Waste Storage Facilities**

- Engineering services
- Excavation and construction
- Other components deemed eligible

### **Cost Share and/or Tax Credit Rates**

- Cost Share: 75% of total estimated project costs
- Tax Credit: 25% of eligible out-of-pocket expenses, after Cost Share payment (if applicable)



## CROPLAND CONVERSION TO HAY OR PASTURE

Conversion of cropland to permanent hay or pasture provides year-round ground cover reducing soil erosion and enhancing water quality. Mixed stands of grasses and/or legumes are recommended.



### **Eligible Components**

- Seed and planting costs
- Minerals (fertilizer, lime, manure)
- Soil test and manure analysis (if applied)
- Herbicides and pesticides

### **Cost Share and/or Tax Credit Rates**

- Cost Share: 75% of total estimated project costs and \$25/acre incentive payment for 5 year lifespan with an additional \$10/acre per year incentive payment for increased lifespans.
- Tax Credit: 25% of eligible out-of-pocket expenses, after Cost Share payment (if applicable)

## DAIRY LOAFING LOT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The intent of this practice is to prevent manure, soil and nutrient runoff from denuded lots that are exposed to heavy livestock traffic. This is accomplished by dividing the area into grass lots where cattle are rotated as necessary to maintain adequate vegetative cover. A sacrifice area or loose housing facility is installed for use during periods of wet weather to prevent damage to the loafing lots.

### **Eligible Components**

- Fencing, walkways and watering systems
- Lot establishment and seeding
- Loose housing facility
- Other components deemed eligible

### **Cost Share and/or Tax Credit Rates**

- Cost Share: 75% of total estimated project costs
- Tax Credit: 25% of eligible out-of-pocket expenses, after Cost Share payment (if applicable)



*All programs and services to the Headwaters SWCD are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or disability. An Equal Opportunity Employer.*