

HEADWATERS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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HeadwatersSWCD.org



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
- Connection to existing water supply

Cost Share and/or Tax Credit Rates

- 55%-100% Cost Share depending on practice
- 5-15 year lifespans available
- \$150,000 maximum payment
- \$80/acre/year upfront buffer payment on wide buffer width practices
- Tax Credit: 25% of eligible out-of-pocket expenses, after Cost Share payment



RIPARIAN BUFFER TREE PLANTING ON CROP OR PASTURE LAND

These practices will provide financial assistance to plant trees (hardwoods and/or conifers) on land currently used as cropland or pasture land to make a land use conversion to forest.

Eligible Components

- Site preparation, trees and planting cost
- Other components deemed eligible

Cost Share and/or Tax Credit Rates

- Cost Share: 95% of total estimated project costs and \$100-\$250 per acre depending on practice and lifespan. A forested buffer practice is also available.
- Tax Credit: 25% of eligible out-of-pocket expenses, after Cost Share payment



*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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We work with the people who work the land.

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 and/or Seasonal Feeding Facility

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

Loafing Lot Management System

- The facilities are designed for dairy or other livestock for producers who need a sacrifice lot or covered facility, as well as a bedded or manure pack area.

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, with a \$150,000 maximum payment
- Tax Credit: 25% of eligible out-of-pocket expenses, after Cost Share payment



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
- \$20-\$60 per acre for non-harvestable cover crops



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 one time incentive payment for 5 year contract, \$100 per acre for a 10 year contract, or \$150 per acre for a 15 year contract.
- Tax Credit: 25% of eligible out-of-pocket expenses, after Cost Share payment

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.