

Conservation Programs in Virginia Summary

Purpose	Program	Eligible Land	Eligible Practices	Agreement Length	Special Payment	Easements	Cost-Share	Contact Agencies	Website
Natural Resource and Environmental Protection	Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP)	Highly erodible cropland (CRP) and marginal pastureland (CREP)	CRP & CCRP- Native Warm Season Grasses (NWSG), Cool Season Grasses (CSG), Shrubs, Vegetative Buffers and Trees Planting; CREP - Watering troughs, pipelines, Hardwood tree planting, plus many more	10 - 15 years	Annual rental payments, signing bonus and a practice bonus	CREP only. Limited to \$500 per acre	50% Federal C/S + \$200 per acre from the state plus 40% practice incentive payment	NRCS, FSA and DCR	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/chapter3.pdf
	Conservation Security Program (CSP)	Lands already treated that meet the quality criteria of NRCS' FOTG	Soil & water quality related practices	10 years	Annual payments for base rate, practices applied & enhancement practices	N/A	Varied	NRCS	www.va.nrcs.usda.gov
	Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	All private land in agricultural production - cropland, grassland, pastureland, and non-industrial forest land	Cropland erosion control, nutrient management, forest management, animal waste management, grazing land practices plus many more	1 - 10 years	Some incentive payments for up to three years	N/A	35 - 75% {90% for new and limited resource farmers (LRFs)}	NRCS, FSA	http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/PROGRAMS/EQIP/
	Small Watersheds Program (PL-534 & PL-566)	All private land in agricultural production	Similar to EQIP	3 - 10 years	Some incentive payments for up to three years	One-time up-front payment	50 - 75% {90% for new and limited resource farmers (LRFs)}	NRCS	http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil&water/documents/dsswcd_c4.pdf
Farmland Preservation	Farmland & Ranch Protection Program (FRPP)	Tracts containing 50% or more of prime farmland & state-wide important farmland or historic resources	N/A However, conservation plans must be implemented on each tract	Perpetual easements only	N/A	USDA pays 50% of the development value over 5 years, or as a one-time up-front payment	No C/S for practices: local or state entity also pays 50% of the development value of the land.	NRCS	http://www.va.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/

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Wildlife Habitat Development	Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	All private land that is not currently enrolled in CRP, WRP or any similar USDA program	Field borders, hedgerows, NWSG, prescribed burning, firebreaks, wildlife habitat development plus many more	5 - 15 years	N/A	N/A	Up to 75%	NRCS	http://www.va.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/
	Partners for Wildlife	All private land	Fencing, riparian plantings, wetland restoration+ more	1 year & 10 years +	N/A	N/A	Up to 100%	USFWS	http://ecos.fws.gov/partners/viewContent.do?viewPage=home
Wetlands Restoration / Wildlife Habitat Development	Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)	Private wetlands converted before 1985 - must be restorable and suitable for wildlife & water quality	Shallow water development with dikes, tree planting, habitat management + many more	10 yrs, 30 yrs or perpetual easement options	N/A	One-time up-front payment	Up to 100%	NRCS	http://www.va.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/
Grassland Protection / Enhancement	Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)	Private existing grassland, 40 acres tract minimum	Establishment of NWSG, prescribed burning, firebreaks, plus many more	10 yrs, 15 yrs, 20 yrs or 30 yrs	Annual rental payments	One-time up-front payment	Up to 90%	NRCS	ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/VA/Technical/Cultural_Resources/SLAUndertakings.pdf
Forest Land Stewardship	Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP)	Private, non-commercial forestland	Timber stand improvement, tree planting plus more	1 year	N/A	N/A	35 - 50%	VDOF	http://www.dof.virginia.gov/mgt/cip-fact-flep.shtml
	EQIP	All private land in agricultural production	Tree planting, prescribed burning plus more	1 - 10 years	Some incentive payments for up to three years	N/A	35 - 75% {90% for new and limited resource farmers (LRFs)}	NRCS, FSA	http://www.va.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/
Water Quality Protection	Virginia Agricultural BMP Cost-Share Program	All private land in agricultural production	Similar to EQIP	1 year	N/A	N/A	50 - 75%	Local SWCD	http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil_water/costshar.shtml
	Virginia BMP Tax Credit Program	N/A	Land owner cost of BMPs included in State Program	1 year	N/A	N/A	N/A	Local SWCD	http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil_water/costshar.shtml

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	Nutrient Management Tax Credit Program	N/A	Specific capital investments	1 year	N/A	N/A	N/A	Local SWCD	http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil&_water/nutmgt.shtml
Flood Protection / Recovery	Watershed Protection Projects (PL-534 & PL-566)	Rural watersheds less than 250,000 acres	Flood protection dams, dikes, debris basins plus more	Expected life of project 25 yrs - 100 yrs	N/A	One-time up-front payment	75 to 100%	NRCS	http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil&_water/documents/dsswcd_c4.pdf
	Dam Rehabilitation	Existing PL-534 and PL-566 Dams	Controlled breaching, rehabilitation	Expected life of project	N/A	N/A	65% Federal	NRCS	http://www.va.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/watershed.html
	Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)	All private land in agricultural production	Debris cleanup, streambank protection, wells plus more	1 year	N/A	N/A	50%	NRCS, FSA	http://www.va.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/watershed.html
	Emergency Watershed Program (EWP)	Rural lands	Debris cleanup, streambank stabilization plus more	1 year	N/A	One-time up-front payment	75%	NRCS	http://www.va.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/watershed.html
Species, Habitat & Open Space Preservation	Various, e.g., Private Land Trusts, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, The Chesapeake Bay Foundation, etc	Threatened & Endangered species, critical habitat, resources of prime interest & local importance	Similar to EQIP & WHIP	Up to perpetual	N/A	One-time up-front payment	Up to 100%	Various private sources	http://www.nature.org/aboutus/howwework/conservationmethods/conservationfunding
									http://www.ducks.org/