

## Soil Conservation Districts

Allegany	(301) 777-1747, ext. 4
Anne Arundel	(410) 222-7822
Baltimore County	(410) 666-1188, ext. 3
Calvert	(410) 535-1521, ext. 3
Caroline	(410) 479-1202, ext. 3
Carroll	(410) 848-8200, ext. 3
Catoctin	(301) 695-2803, ext. 3
Cecil	(410) 398-4411, ext. 3
Charles	(301) 934-9588, ext. 3
Dorchester	(410) 228-5640, ext. 3
Frederick	(301) 695-2803, ext. 3
Garrett	(301) 334-6951
Harford	(410) 838-6181, ext. 3
Howard	(410) 489-7987
Kent	(410) 778-5150, ext. 3
Montgomery	(301) 590-2855
Prince George's	(301) 574-5162, ext. 3
Queen Anne's	(410) 758-3136, ext. 3
St. Mary's	(301) 475-8402, ext. 3
Somerset	(410) 651-1575, ext. 3
Talbot	(410) 822-1577, ext. 3
Washington	(301) 797-6821, ext. 3
Wicomico	(410) 546-4777, ext. 3
Worcester	(410) 632-5439, ext. 3



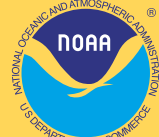
Maryland  
Department of Agriculture  
*Office of Resource Conservation*

**New Rates**

# Cost-Share Assistance For Nutrient Management Plans

*FINANCIAL HELP TO  
DEVELOP YOUR NUTRIENT  
MANAGEMENT PLAN*

Financial assistance provided by the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, administered by the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).



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Office of Resource Conservation

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Martin O'Malley, *Governor*  
Anthony G. Brown, *Lt. Governor*  
Roger L. Richardson, *Secretary of Agriculture*  
Earl F. Hance, *Deputy Secretary*



MDA 15.10.07 Recycled Paper

## Introduction

Financial assistance is available to Maryland farmers who hire a private, non-government consultant to develop or update a nutrient management plan for their farms. Nutrient management plans—required by Maryland law—help farmers balance crop nutrient needs with fertilizer applications in order to achieve realistic crop yields, minimize nutrient losses to the environment and maintain soil productivity. The plans are a key element in Maryland's efforts to protect water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.



## Who Needs A Plan

The Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998 (WQIA) requires all farmers grossing \$2,500 a year or more or livestock producers with 8,000 pounds or more of live animal weight to run their operations using a nutrient management plan that addresses both nitrogen and phosphorus inputs. The requirement applies to all agricultural land used to produce plants, food, feed, fiber, animals or other agricultural products. Farmers are required to update their nutrient management plans following major changes to their operations or once every three years.



## Cost-Share Eligibility Guidelines

Farmers may apply for grants to cover up to 87.5 percent of the cost of hiring a private consultant to develop a nutrient management plan for their farms. Funding is administered by the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program using the following guidelines:



- The nutrient management plan must be prepared by a non-government consultant who is licensed and certified by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA).

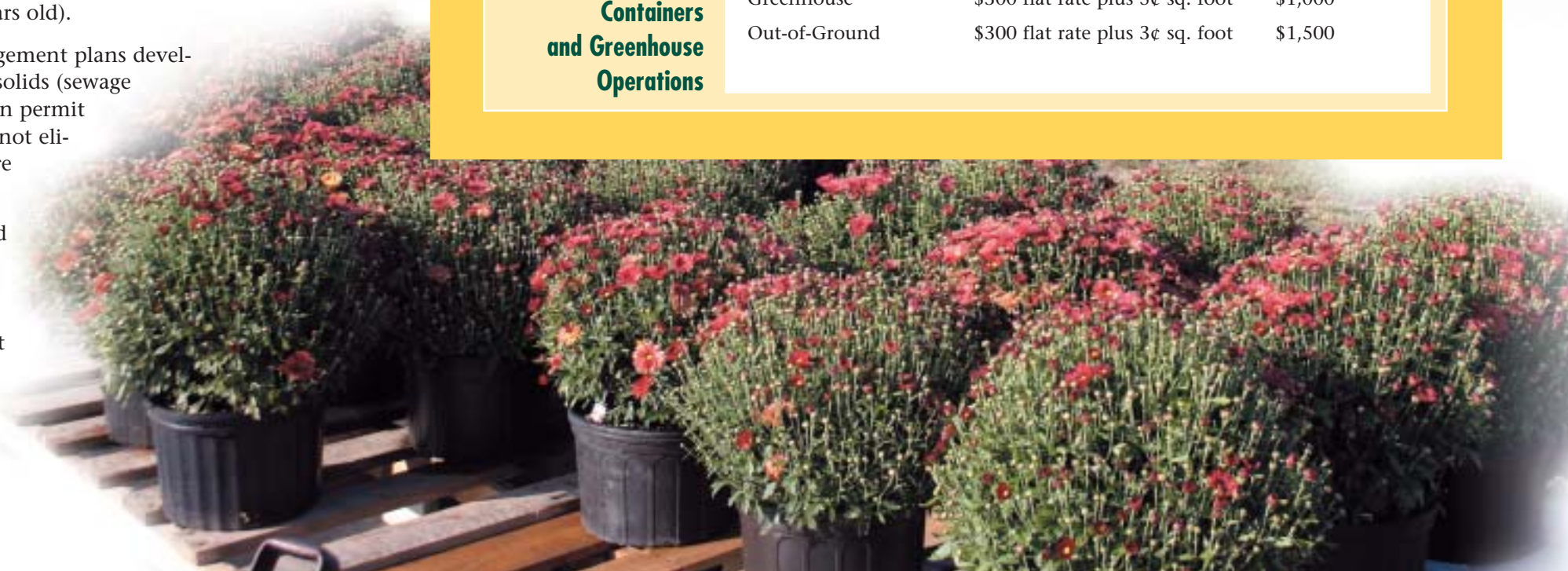
- The plan must address both nitrogen and phosphorus inputs for all eligible farm acreage within an operation.

- Plans should be written or updated for a minimum of one year (two upcoming cropping seasons).

- Plans should use current soil test results (less than three years old) and/or manure analyses (less than two years old).

- Nutrient management plans developed to meet biosolids (sewage sludge) application permit requirements are not eligible for cost-share assistance.

- Plans developed with support, incentives or cost-share from other government programs will have eligibility limitations.



### Cost-Share Rates for Animal\* and Cropland Operations\*\*

SIZE	RATE	MAX. PAYMENT
Less than 250 acres	\$250 flat rate plus \$5/acre	\$1,500
251 to 1,000 acres	\$250 flat rate plus \$3/acre	\$3,000
More than 1,000 acres	\$250 flat rate plus \$2/acre	\$4,000

*\*Animal operations without cropland may be eligible for a \$200 cost-share grant to cover costs associated with developing and implementing an abbreviated plan for manure management and utilization off site.*

*\*\*Add \$1 per acre for operations that generate and utilize animal waste.*

### Cost-Share Rates for Vegetable, Fruit/Orchard and In-Ground Nursery Operations

SIZE	RATE	MAX. PAYMENT
Less than 25 acres	\$300 flat rate plus \$16/acre	\$ 700
26 to 50 acres	\$300 flat rate plus \$12/acre	\$2,000
More than 250 acres	\$250 flat rate plus \$3/acre	\$3,000

### Cost-Share Rates for Out-of-Ground Containers and Greenhouse Operations

OPERATION TYPE	RATE	MAX. PAYMENT
Greenhouse	\$300 flat rate plus 5¢ sq. foot	\$1,000
Out-of-Ground	\$300 flat rate plus 3¢ sq. foot	\$1,500

## Cost-Share for Out-of-Pocket Expenses

Cost-share grants are available for certain out-of-pocket expenses incurred by certified operators who develop a plan for land they own or manage and operators whose plans are being developed by University of Maryland Cooperative Extension consultants. Out-of-pocket costs are defined as soil tests, manure analyses and tissue testing. A \$100 minimum expenditure is required. Farmers should contact the MACS program or their soil conservation district for details.



### How to Find a Certified Consultant

Contact the Maryland Nutrient Management Program at 410-

841-5959 or visit MDA's web site at [www.mda.state.md.us](http://www.mda.state.md.us) for a county-by-county listing of consultants who are licensed and certified to provide nutrient management plans. Farmers may want to complete a written agreement with the consultant to clarify the scope of services and costs. A template is available at MDA regional offices, soil conservation districts or online at [www.mda.state.md.us](http://www.mda.state.md.us)—click on "Nutrient Management" listed under "Quick Links."

### How to Apply

Applications for cost-share funds should be submitted to MDA through the local soil conservation district. An approved agreement with MACS must be signed before the nutrient management plan is developed. In addition, applicants must be in good standing with MACS. Deadlines for utilizing cost-share to complete the plan may apply.