

Maryland's 24 Soil Conservation Districts

Allegany	301-777-1747, ext. 3
Anne Arundel	410-571-6757
Baltimore County	410-527-5920, 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	301-334-6950, ext. 3
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 County	301-797-6821, ext. 3
Wicomico	410-546-4777, ext. 3
Worcester	410-632-5439, ext. 3

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).



**Maryland Department of Agriculture
Office of Resource Conservation
Conservation Grants Program**
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Annapolis, MD 21401
www.mda.maryland.gov

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Mary Ellen Setting, *Deputy Secretary*



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**Maryland
Department of Agriculture**

Office of Resource Conservation

Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share Program

Providing grants to help farmers
protect natural resources and
comply with environmental laws
and regulations

MACS



Waste Storage Structures

MACS Works for Farmers

Since 1984, the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program has been providing farmers with grants to help protect natural resources on their farms, adopt sustainable agricultural practices and comply with a growing list of federal, state and local environmental requirements.

MACS provides farmers with conservation grants that cover up to 87.5 percent of the cost to install conservation measures known as best management practices (BMPs) on their farms to prevent soil erosion, manage nutrients and safeguard water quality in streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. Cover crops planted after the harvest to absorb unused crop fertilizers, streamside buffers of grasses and trees planted to protect waterways from agricultural runoff, and animal waste systems designed to help farmers collect and use manure resources efficiently are among more than 25 BMPs currently eligible for funding.



Livestock Crossing

The MACS Solution

Today's farmers face a complicated array of environmental laws and regulations that may require them to install additional BMPs on their farms to protect water quality. Farmers located in the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Areas are required to install certain BMPs as part of a larger, more comprehensive natural resources protection program. New rules for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and Maryland Animal Feeding Operations (MAFOs) require certain livestock producers to install advanced water quality protection measures. More recently, Maryland's revised Nutrient Management Regulations require pasture-based operations to install BMPs such as watering facilities, livestock crossings, pasture management techniques or vegetative exclusion to further protect streams from livestock impacts. Additionally, in 2016, Maryland will ban winter nutrient applications, creating an increased need for animal waste storage systems and manure transport services.



Heavy Use Area

In most instances, MACS can help. Many of the BMPs that MACS supports reduce soil and nutrient losses from farm fields, pastures, and environmentally sensitive areas. Others address barnyard management and waste storage issues. Moreover, many of the BMPs financed by MACS will help Maryland meet the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) of nutrient and sediment pollution for the Bay established by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Maximum Funding Levels

The cost of installing BMPs varies from project to project and site to site. The scope of the problem, site characteristics, and cost effectiveness of the proposed project are all taken into consideration. The following maximum funding levels are effective December 24, 2012:

Animal Waste Management Systems

- Up to \$200,000 per project, with a maximum of \$300,000 per farm

All Other BMPs

- Up to \$50,000 per project, with a maximum of \$150,000 per farm.

A flat rate ceiling applies to all BMP components. Allowable rates for materials and services necessary to install a BMP are established annually by each county. Eligible costs are determined by applying the standard flat rates to the components approved for each project.

BMPs Eligible for MACS Funding

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ✓ Conservation Cover | ✓ Riparian Herbaceous Cover |
| ✓ Cover Crops | ✓ Roof Runoff Structure |
| ✓ Critical Area Planting | ✓ Sediment Basin |
| ✓ Dead Bird Composting Facility | ✓ Sediment Control Pond |
| ✓ Diversion | ✓ Spring Development |
| ✓ Fencing | ✓ Stream Crossing |
| ✓ Field Border | ✓ Terrace System |
| ✓ Filter Strip | ✓ Waste Storage Structure |
| ✓ Grade Stabilization Structure | ✓ Waste Treatment Lagoon |
| ✓ Grassed Waterway | ✓ Wastewater Treatment Strip |
| ✓ Heavy Use Area Protection | ✓ Water Control Structure |
| ✓ Lined Waterway or Outlet | ✓ Water Well |
| ✓ Manure Transport | ✓ Watering Facility |
| ✓ Riparian Forest Buffer | ✓ Wetland Restoration |



Watering Trough

Get Started, Get MACS

Farmers should contact their local soil conservation district to determine the conservation practices that will work best for their site. MACS applications must be approved by the Maryland Department of Agriculture through the local soil conservation district office before beginning a project.

Eligibility

MACS is available to individuals, partnerships, corporations, trusts or other businesses that operate a Maryland farm.

- Proposed projects must meet MACS eligibility and cost-effectiveness requirements.
- Applicants must have an existing or potentially critical condition on agricultural land that causes soil, nutrients or other pollutants to enter state waters; or the proposed project will improve water quality.
- Applicants must be in compliance with the Maryland Nutrient Management Program.

Free Help Just Around the Corner

Every year, soil conservation districts help Maryland farmers secure financial assistance from MACS to install BMPs on their farms. Located in every Maryland county, soil conservation districts—with technical guidance from USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service—work with farmers free of charge, to design BMPs, supervise their installation and construction, and develop operation and maintenance plans to keep them in good working order. The SCD can also help farmers apply for low interest loans to get a project started and federal cost-share funds through USDA. In many instances USDA and MACS funds can be combined.



Grassed Waterway