

AgEP

AgEP's mission is to assist the agricultural cooperators of West Virginia Conservation Districts with the voluntary implementation of best management practices (BMPs) on agricultural lands in order to conserve and improve land and water quality. The program offers technical and financial assistance as an incentive to implement suggested best management practices. Additional practice options will be determined by each Conservation District to best address the needs of the district. The intent of AgEP is to be a simple, user-friendly program in order to encourage participation. Overall program primary objectives include the reduction of nutrients and sediment from entering the waters of the State and increasing farm profitability and sustainability. Each conservation district has the ability to modify the program to address specific agricultural issues in its area.

AgEP will provide opportunities for demonstration of site-specific agricultural best management practices and the education of agricultural operators about innovative management and conservation practices and methods. AgEP supports implementation of new innovative best management practices. CDs have discretion related to the evaluation and funding of these types of practices. Historically CDs have partnered with WVCA, WVU Extension, NRCS and other agencies for on-site demonstration of new innovative practices.

Western CD Guidelines for Participation:

- Land must be a farming operation. (See explanation of below.)
- All AgEP practices are limited by available funds
- All practices must be completed by the deadline of May 31, 2018
- A maximum cost share for all AgEP practices is \$4,000 per cooperator per calendar year from the Date of application.
- Soil test results are required on some practices and encouraged on all practices. WVU lab preferred.

New Program Begins July 1, 2017

Program Rules & Guidelines are subject to change with the 2017 program.

Sign Up MAY 1– MAY 31, 2017

Check us out on the web at: www.wvca.us/districts

63 CSR 1 defines the following:

“Farmer” means a person engaged in the activity of farming with the potential for producing at least one thousand dollars of products per annum from those activities.

“Activity of farming” means the production of food, fiber and woodland products, by means of cultivation, tillage of the soil and by the conduct of animal, livestock, dairy, apiary, equine or poultry husbandry, and the practice of forestry, silviculture, horticulture, or any other plant or animal production and all farm practices related, usual or incidental thereto, including the storage, packing, shipping and marketing, but not including any manufacturing, milling or processing of such products by other than the producer thereof.

Agricultural Land is defined as land being used in a bona fide agricultural production program. All landowners and/or lessees engaged in the production of agriculture, horticultural, or forest products may apply.

Western Conservation District
Jackson, Mason, Putnam counties
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West Virginia Agricultural Enhancement Program

Administered by:
West Virginia Conservation Districts with assistance from
the West Virginia Conservation Agency



Conservation Best Management Practices for Your Land



AGRICULTURAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM:

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?



Conservation Best Management Practices For Your Land.....

Western Conservation District

SIGN UP IS MAY 1—31, 2017

Lime

Benefits:

The application of bulk agricultural lime only. Lime distributor must have registered with the WV Department of Agriculture. Lime will adjust the pH of the soil and release nutrients that may otherwise be restricted for plant use. Overall results would include improved soil structure, better soil tilth, reduced erosion, and increase production of the grassland.

Limits:

- Not to exceed 50 acres per farm per year
- Acreage previously limed under this program will not be eligible for two years and will require a new soil test before becoming eligible after two years.

Cost Share Rate:

- Up to \$21 per ton (includes purchase and delivery)
- Up to 2 tons per acre
- Soil pH of below 6.0 from a current soil test
- A current soil test is a test less than two years old
- Maximum cost share of \$2,100
- Hayland, pastureland and cropland are eligible
- Receipts Required

Nutrient Management

Benefits:

To improve soil structure, better soil tilth, reduce erosion and increase the production of pasture.

Limits:

- 50 Acre Maximum
- **Pasture Only**
- 6.0 pH or greater

Cost Share Rate:

- \$25 Cost Share Per Acre
- Not to exceed \$1,250
- Phosphorus & Potassium
- Receipts Required

As per recommendation using soil test results as prescribed by WCD.



Requirements for all Practices

- Must be farming operation.
- Must be a Cooperator with WCD.
- A copy of lease will be required for operator if not owner.

Property must be in the boundaries of the Western CD:

- **Mason County**
- **Putnam County**
- **Jackson County**

Frost Seeding

Benefits:

Reduce erosion from wind and water, increase organic matter content, capture and recycle/redistribute nutrients in the soil profile, soil moisture management, minimize and reduce soil compaction, weed suppression, promote biological nitrogen fixation.

Limits:

- 50 Acres Max
- Soil pH 5.8 or greater
- Must seed between February 1st to March 1st
- Pasture or Meadow Only

Cost Share Rate:

- \$20.00 per acre
- Not to exceed \$1,000.00
- Receipts Required

Pollinator Habitat

Benefits:

Provide food and habitat for pollinators to help them thrive. In farming situations this increases production per acre. In the wild, biodiversity increases and wildlife food sources increase.

Limits:

- 1/2 acre maximum
- Completed by May 31st

Cost Share Rate:

- \$200 flat rate
- Receipts Required

Cover Crop

Benefits:

The coverage practice of growing a crop of grass, small grain or legumes is primarily for seasonal protection and soil improvement. This practice will protect water quality by reducing soil erosion if properly constructed and maintained. Cover crops have a filtering effect on movement of sediment, pathogens, dissolved nutrients, and pollutants.

Limits:

- 50 Acres
- Must be terminated, plowed under or grazed after March 1st.
- Will not pay for crop harvested as grain.
- Practice must be planted by November 15th

Cost Share Rate:

- \$30 per acre flat rate
- Not to exceed \$1,500

Water Development

Benefits:

A watering facility is a device (tank, trough, or other watertight container) to provide watering for livestock and / or wildlife at selected locations in order to: Protect and enhance vegetative cover through proper distribution of grazing. Provide erosion control through better grassland management. Protect streams, ponds, and water supplies from contamination by providing alternative access.

Limits:

- Sufficient number of livestock must be present at least five months out of the year
- Land must be engaged in the production of agriculture products.

Cost Share Rate:

- Not to exceed \$4,000

Flat Rate per practice:

- Spring Development: \$950
- Pond: \$2,500
- Cistern: \$1,400
- Water Well: \$11.00/per ft.
- Pump: \$700
- Pipeline: \$1.90/foot
- Trough: \$800

Fence

(Division & Exclusion)

Benefits:

Division Fence, when properly constructed and maintained allows producers to efficiently rotate pasture thus reducing erosion and increasing pasture health.

Exclusion Fencing is used to exclude animals, people, or vehicles from an area, usually streams or forestland.

Limits:

- \$4,000 per contract
- Must have serviceable boundary fence
- Sufficient number of livestock must be present at least five months out of the year
- Land must be engaged in the production of agriculture products.

Cost Share Rate:

- \$1.50 linear foot
- Not to exceed a total length of 2665 feet

Program limits, cost share rates, and eligibility rules may change for the 2017 program year.