



FY26 Agricultural Enhancement Program

Heavy Use Area Protection Application

Application Period: April 14, 2025–May 30, 2025

Office Use Only:

Date

Time

Priority

First

Second

Applicant Information

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Date:

What is your preferred method to receive written notification? **Email/Letter**

Do you own or lease the land associated with this application? **Own/Lease**

Are the fields associated with this application part of another financial incentive program for Heavy Use Area Protection? **Yes/No**

Farm Information

MONONGAHELA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Location/County: **Monongalia Marion Preston**

Farm Name:

Farm:

Tract:

Field Names/Numbers:

Is the land associated with this application part of a farming operation? **Yes/No**

Do you have a financial interest in a farming entity with a Monongahela Conservation District Supervisor or local WVCA Employee? **Yes/No**

Have you attended a conservation related event or workshop within the past 12 months? **Yes/No**

Best Management Practice

BMP	Limits	Cost-Share Rate	Type
Heavy Use Area Protection	<u>4,000</u> sq. ft. maximum 8 in. thick <u>Gravel</u> and <u>Filter Fabric</u>	50% (<i>cost of materials and labor</i>) <u>DNE: \$5,000.00</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Trough <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock Lane/Walkway <input type="checkbox"/> Loading Area <input type="checkbox"/> Gate Passageway

Definition:

The stabilization of areas frequently and intensively used by animals and/or vehicles by surfacing with suitable materials. Suitable construction materials include a combination of clean gravel, crushed stone, and geotextile fabric to provide the area with increased load bearing strength, drainage, separation of material, and soil reinforcement.

Purpose:

Heavy Use Area Protection reduces soil erosion, improves water quantity and quality, and livestock health.

Policies for Program:

- Applicant must be a District Cooperator. ("Conservation Agreement" forms are available upon request).
- Program is available to landowner and/or farm operator (*lessee*).
- Applicant is ineligible for a practice reimbursement if he/she starts project before District approval.
- No duplication of federal or state cost-share shall be allowed.

- Property must be used as a farming operation.
- No more than two Ag. Enhancement Program applications will be accepted each year.
- Application approvals will be made based upon availability of funds and a ranking process.

Policies for Practice:

- To be used at the following sites affected by livestock use: ***watering areas (troughs), lanes/walkways, loading/unloading areas, and gate passageways.***
- A guidance document with *Heavy Use Area Protection* specifications will be provided that includes:
 - Fabric material type, thickness of stone layers, size(s) of stone, and amount of stone needed along with other construction guidance.
- Stone used must be graded.
- Care must be given to protect soil and water quality during and after installation.
- Disturbed areas must be seeded and mulched.
- The landowner agrees to maintain this practice for a period of 10 years after the date of completion.
- The heavy use area protection must be **completed** and **fully functional** by **December 01, 2025**.

Practice Specifications:

- State Conservation Committee approved standards and specifications must be followed.
- After approval, applicant must follow guidance documents provided.

Reimbursement Process:

- A payment will be approved as: 1. Receipts are received; 2. Verification form is signed; 3. District approves the payment.
- All receipts and forms are due to the Monongahela Conservation District Office by **December 01, 2025**, otherwise payments may be delayed or even denied.
- Requests for deadline extension may be approved on a case-by-case basis.

Application must include the following:

1. Conservation Agreement (*if applicable*).
2. Signed application.
3. Farm map with individual fields and areas identified where the practice is proposed.
4. Lease agreement, Producer Application Form, or USDA-FSA Annual Farm Report (*if applicable*).

By signing this I have read, understand, and agree to the terms and conditions stated in this document.

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____
Application and all supporting documents must be received by May 30, 2025:

Monongahela Conservation District
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 Morgantown, WV 26508
 Email: mcd@wvca.us