



TVCD Agricultural Enhancement Program

FY25 Application

Applications accepted Monday April 8, 2024 through Friday May 17, 2024

APPLICANT INFORMATION	OFFICE USE ONLY
Name:	Date Received:
Mailing Address:	Time Received:
Telephone:	Farm Map:
Email Address:	Soil Samples: Date
Application Date:	Taken:
Tygarts Valley Conservation District:	Contract Expiration Date:
County:	Ranking Score:
	Verification #
	Application #

<u>Cooperator/ Applicant Questions</u>		
Are you a Conservation District Cooperator?	Yes	No
Will the property associated with your application be part of a farming operation? (Production of food, feed, or fiber)	Yes	No
If yes, does the farming operation have the potential to generate \$1,000.00 of gross income annually?	Yes	No
Are you the landowner and or operator of the farm? List others with control of the property/operation (ex. Spouse, relative or business partner) _____	Yes	No
Does a current conservation plan completed by a certified planner or trained technician exist for the land/practice being requested?	Yes	No
Does a current nutrient management plan completed by a certified planner or trained technician exist for the land/practice being requested? (within 3 years)	Yes	No
Does a forest stewardship plan exist for the land/practice being requested? (within last 10 years)	Yes	No
If yes, was the plan completed by a registered forester?	Yes	No
Is the land enrolled in the USDA Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program?	Yes	No
Is there a comprehensive nutrient management plan completed by a certified planner?	Yes	No

Have you attended any conservation related events in the past 12 months? (Eat & Reap, Small Farms Conference, TVCD Workshops/ Field Days) If yes, please list: _____	Yes	No
Are you a TVCD District Supervisor or relative (spouse, parent, child, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law)? If yes, please list: _____	Yes	No
Are you a West Virginia Conservation Agency employee or relative (spouse, parent, child, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law)? If yes, please list: _____	Yes	No
Are you a TVCD District employee or relative (spouse, parent, child, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law)? If yes, please list: _____	Yes	No

Best Management Practices

Please complete the following information for the **TWO** Best Management Practices you would like to apply for.

Frost Seeding	Not to exceed 50 acres. Seeding must be completed by March 14, 2025. Less than 5.8 pH is ineligible.	\$20.00 per acre with a maximum payment of \$1,000.00 (50-acre Max)	Farm# _____
			Tract# _____
			Field# _____

Definition:

- Frost seeding is an economical method of improving pasture and hay fields by broadcasting the seed on frozen ground. As the ground freezes and thaws, it opens and closes allowing the seed to be incorporated into the soil. This keeps the seed from germinating until there is a good moisture supply early in the spring.

Purpose:

- Frost seeding legumes and grasses is increasing being used as a means to improve pasture yields or change forage species composition within the pasture. Frost seeding offers several potential advantages. These include the ability to establish forage in an undisturbed sod, a reduced sod, a reduced need for labor and energy compared to conventional seeding methods, the ability to establish forages with minimum equipment investment, a shortened “non-grazing” period, and it is a method to maintain stands at productive levels with both grasses and legumes.

Completion Date & Payment:

- April 11, 2025** practice must be completed, and invoices must be submitted.
- The maximum cost share for this practice shall be \$20.00 per acre.

- Maximum of \$1,000.00 per applicant.
- **NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE GIVEN**

Invasive Species Management	Cost share of chemicals or mechanical removal	50% cost share on chemicals maximum \$500.00 75% cost share on mechanical removal maximum \$2,000.00	Farm#
			Tract#
			Field#

Definition:

- Management of invasive species on pasture, hay land and woodland.

Purpose:

- To provide incentive for the control of invasive species on pasture hay land, and woodland.

Completion Date & Payment:

- **June 6, 2025**, practice must be completed, and invoices must be submitted.
- The maximum cost share for chemicals for this practice shall be 50% cost share up to \$500.00 on chemicals and 75% cost share up to \$2,000.00 on mechanical removal.
- Maximum of \$2,000.00 per applicant.
- **NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE GIVEN**

Lime	Not to exceed 50 acres. Cover payments only for Registered State Ag Lime. Lime certification must accompany receipt.	50% cost share up to \$20.00 a ton Registered Ag Lime, trucking and spreading. Maximum 2 Tons Maximum reimbursement of \$2,000.00	Farm #
			Tract#
			Field#

Definition:

- To improve soil structure, soil tilth, reduce erosion, and increase the production of grassland.

Purpose:

- Provide incentive for the maintenance of pasture, cropland, or hay land.
- Provide soil and watershed protection by increasing plant vigor and vitality, therefore aiding in the reduction of erosion on grassland.

Completion Date & Payment:

- **January 10, 2025**, practice must be completed, and invoices must be submitted.
- The maximum cost share for this practice shall be 50% cost share up to \$20.00 a ton not to exceed 100 tons.
- Maximum of \$2,000.00 per applicant.
- **NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE GIVEN**

Pond Clean Out	Not to Exceed \$2,000.00	50% cost share rate, Not to Exceed \$2,000.00	Farm #
			Tract#
			Field#

Definition:

- Cleanout of sediment, aquatic weeds and run-off collected in farm pond causing poor water quality for livestock and additional sediment collecting in run-off and associated watershed areas.

Purpose:

- Serves as an incentive to maintain water quality in agricultural use ponds by removing sediment and improving the overall condition of the farm pond. Intended to be used as part of a farm livestock water source plan. Ponds are required to be fenced after cleanout. Water troughs fed from ponds are strongly encouraged.

Completion Date & Payment:

- **April 11, 2025**, practice must be completed, and invoices must be submitted.
- The maximum cost share for this practice shall be 50% cost share not to exceed \$2,000.00.
- **NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE GIVEN**

Pollination (Pollinator Habitat or Solitary Bee Nest)	Not to exceed 10,890 Square Feet (1/4 acre) Or Solitary Bee Nest	70% Cost Share on the purchase of seed or solitary bee nest Not to exceed \$250.00	Farm # _____ Tract# _____ Field# _____
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Definition:

- Pollinator Habitat area will be seeded and maintained in permanent vegetative cove to enhance wildlife habitat and pollinator habitat.
- Solitary Bee Nests will create nesting opportunities for solitary bees.

Purpose:

- Increase habitat for native and managed pollinators.

Completion Date & Payment:

- **January 10, 2025**, practice must be completed, and invoices must be submitted.
- 70% cost share will be provided to purchase the seed for a pollinator planting.
- Maximum of \$250.00 per applicant.
- **NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE GIVEN**

Pollination (Honey Bee Nucleus Colony)	Two 5-frame honeybee nucleus colonies w/ new queen	75% cost share on the purchase of nuc colonies. Not to exceed \$250.00	Farm # _____ Tract# _____ Field# _____
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Definition:

- Pollination practices establish new pollinator habitat, manage/improve existing habitat, and increase healthy pollinator populations.

Purpose:

- Maintaining healthy pollinator habitats can improve water quality, provide habitat for other wildlife, and help stabilize and build soil structure. Pollinators will be able to provide the service they offer to crops that depend on them to produce fruits, vegetables, and nuts.

Honey Bee Nucleus Colony Specifications

- Nuc must be sourced from West Virginia.
- Nuc must be pre-inspected by WVDA.

- Nuc must be at least 5 frames.
- Honey and Pollen must be provided with the nuc.
- Nuc must contain a new queen.
- All State and local laws must be followed while transporting honeybees.
- All State and local laws must be followed while operating an apiary. Such laws would include but are not limited to registration and inspection of hives.

Completion Date & Payment:

- **June 6, 2025**, practice must be completed, and invoices must be submitted.
- 75% cost share will be provided for purchase of honeybee nucleus colonies.
- Maximum of \$250.00 per applicant.
- **NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE GIVEN**

Small Scale Soil Amendment	75% of cost	75% cost Biochar Lime Nutrient Management \$600.00	Farm # _____
			Tract# _____
			Field# _____

Definition:

- To improve soil organic matter, sequester carbon and enhance soil carbon stocks, improve soil aggregate stability, and/or improve soil habitat organism.

Purpose

- To budget, supply and conserve nutrients for plant production and health.
- Manage the rate, source, method of application, and timing of plant nutrients and soil amendments.
- The ability to increase soil pH.

Completion Date & Payment:

- **January 10, 2025**, practice must be completed, and invoices must be submitted.
- The maximum cost share for this practice shall be 75% cost share up to \$600.00
- **NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE GIVEN**

Urban and Community Agriculture	Must select practice(s) from the list below.	75% Cost Share Not to exceed \$1,000.00	Farm # _____
			Tract# _____
			Field# _____

Please select from the options below:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| _____ Bluebird boxes | _____ Landscape fabric |
| _____ Cold frames and hot beds | _____ Low tunnel |
| _____ Composters or Compost | _____ Mulching |
| _____ Cover crops for high tunnels | _____ Polywire fencing |
| _____ Irrigation | _____ Rain barrel or rain barrel kits |

____ Raised garden bed
 ____ Shade cloth
 ____ Soil

____ Stakes and trellises
 ____ Straw mulch
 ____ Urban deer fence

Definition:

- All Best Management Practices (BMP) must be purchased materials to construct a raised bed. BMPs are intended to address soil erosion and other related programs.

Purpose:

- Aid urban landowners that are interested in agricultural practices.
- Rural landowners will not be excluded, providing soil and watershed protection by storm water management and soil erosion reduction, and encourage locally grown foods.

Completion Date & Payment:

- **January 10, 2025**, practice must be completed, and invoices must be submitted.
- Maximum of \$1,000.00 per household per year.
- **NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE GIVEN**

Watering System	Not to Exceed \$3,000.00	70% Cost Share Max \$3,000.00	Farm # _____
			Tract# _____
			Field# _____

Definition:

- To provide adequate amount and quality of drinking water for livestock.

Purpose:

- Maintain or improve the quality and quantity of livestock water.
- Maintain liability and human health concerns.

Completion Date & Payment:

- **April 11, 2025**, practice must be completed, and invoices must be submitted.
- Maximum of \$3,000.00 per applicant.
- **NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE GIVEN**

Policies for Practices:

1. Applicant must be a district cooperator.
2. A W-9 tax form is required with application for District tax purposes.
3. Cost share is available to owner or lessee.
4. Applicant must provide map identifying tract and field along with proposed acreage.
5. NRCS standards and specs must be followed.
6. Approvals should be completed by **August 16, 2024**.
7. Application approvals will be made based upon availability of funds and based on the ranking forms.
8. After approval applicant must follow job sheets provided at the time of signing the contract.
9. I agree to all screening and ranking tools used by the district.
10. Application will be declined, if applicant's intentions of completed activities are inconsistent with respect to the definition and/or purpose of the practice(s) that are being applied for.

11. When an applicant cancels project without approval from the TVCD board of supervisors, that applicant and/or property will be not permitted to participate in the Agricultural Enhancement Program for the upcoming fiscal year.
12. Individuals who lease government owned land (federal, state, county, or city) may only apply for cost share assistance for best management practices (BMP) whose lifespans are equal to or less than the number of years on the lease agreement. These practices are limited to Lime.
13. A cooperator will be forgiven for not completing an AgEP practice after one year. At this point, the cooperator will be eligible to earn points for completion related questions on ranking/screening forms.
14. A District Cooperator may only apply for two AgEP Cost-share practice per fiscal year not to exceed \$5,000.00.
15. Cooperators with past due (more than 30 days) accounts with the Tygarts Valley Conservation District will not be eligible to participate in the Ag Enhancement program until each past due bill is paid in full.
16. Any cooperator participating in the Ag Enhancement Program with the exception of Urban Agricultural Practice(s) must register his/her farm with the Farm Service Agency prior to applying for the program.

Payment Rates and Limits:

1. The payment will be made after paid invoices are received, cooperator completes a W-9 form, Conservation Specialist has made a site visit, and CD approves the payment.
2. Payment will be made to cooperator within 45 days of CD approval.
3. No duplication of federal or state cost-share shall be allowed.
4. Practice must be completed, and receipts must be sent to the District Office by the project deadline.
5. **NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE GIVEN.**
6. Total reimbursement will not exceed the total cost based on receipts submitted.

Practice Specifications

1. Please refer to job sheets provided at the time of approval and signing of contract.
2. Lime payments will be on **Registered Agricultural Lime only.**
3. Lime receipts must have a certification stamp.
4. Urban Agriculture **MUST** serve an agriculture need. Rain Barrels will not be reimbursed if it does not provide for a garden or other agricultural area.

Farm Name (if applicable):

All applications submitted must have a copy of the farm map and soil samples where applicable.

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

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

We will not accept applications postmarked after May 17, 2024.

Tygarts Valley Conservation District
16346 Barbour County Highway
Philippi, WV 26416