

Accepting Applications: November 3, 2025 - January 6, 2026

If you have an innovative idea to enhance soil health on your farm, this program is for you! The Maryland Department of Agriculture invites applications from Maryland farmers and organizations working with farmers. Proposals should focus on adopting conservation practices and soil health systems that expand knowledge within the agricultural community. We provide financial assistance for a range of soil health and agroforestry practices.



How Much Money Is Available?

This competitive grant program awards selected applicants with up to \$50,000 to support 3 years of enhanced healthy soil practices.

When Can I Apply for Your Grants?

MDA will accept applications **through January 9, 2026**. Grant recipients will be announced by March 30, 2026. Visit the website for full details.

What Types of Projects Are Funded?

Financial assistance is available to manage conservation practices in new and innovative ways that improve soil health, yield, and profitability and capture carbon. Eligible practices include:

- Cover Crops
- Conservation Tillage
- Pasture and Hay Planting
- Conservation Cover
- Critical Area Planting
- Conservation Crop Rotation
- Nutrient Management
- Integrated Pest Management
- Prescribed Grazing
- Soil Carbon Amendment



Eligible Agroforestry practices include:



- Alley Cropping
- Hedgerow Planting
- Silvopasture
- Tree and Shrub Establishment
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment

Who Is Eligible for Funds?

The following individuals or groups may apply for funding. You may apply for funding for more than one conservation practice:



- Individual farmers operating in Maryland
- Groups of farmers operating in Maryland
- Individuals or organizations working with farmers in Maryland

More Information

- There are no minimum or maximum acreage requirements
- Applicants must have a current nutrient management plan.
- Funds may not be used to cover overhead, indirect costs, fertility inputs or livestock
- Funds may be used to:
 - ✓ Support implementation of conservation practices
 - ✓ Cover staff and administrative time for organizations that provide technical support to producers
 - ✓ Cover research costs
 - ✓ Purchase or rent equipment that supports the adoption of soil health practices



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bit.ly/MDAHealthySoil



HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM

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