

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	301-638-3028
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	410-313-0680
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	410-621-9310
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



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of Resource Conservation

Conservation Grants Program
 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
 Annapolis, MD 21401
 410-841-5864
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Maryland Department of Agriculture

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Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share Program

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



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 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 practices 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 best management practices on their farms to protect water quality. Farmers located in the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area are required to install certain practices as part of a larger, more comprehensive natural resources protection program. Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs) may be required to install advanced water quality protection measures. Maryland's Nutrient Management Regulations require pasture-based operations to install watering facilities, livestock crossings, pasture management techniques, or vegetative exclusion to protect streams from livestock impacts. In addition, Maryland's phased-in ban on winter manure applications is creating an increased need for animal waste storage systems and manure transport services.

In most instances, MACS can help. Many of the practices that MACS supports reduce soil and nutrient losses from farm fields, pastures, and environmentally-sensitive areas.

Others address barnyard management and waste storage issues. Our grants help farmers keep pace with Maryland's short-term Bay cleanup commitments and long-term restoration goals.



Heavy Use Area

Maximum Funding Levels

The cost of installing best management practices 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 apply:

Animal Waste Management Systems

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

All Other Best Management Practices

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

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

ELIGIBLE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

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



Watering Facility

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.

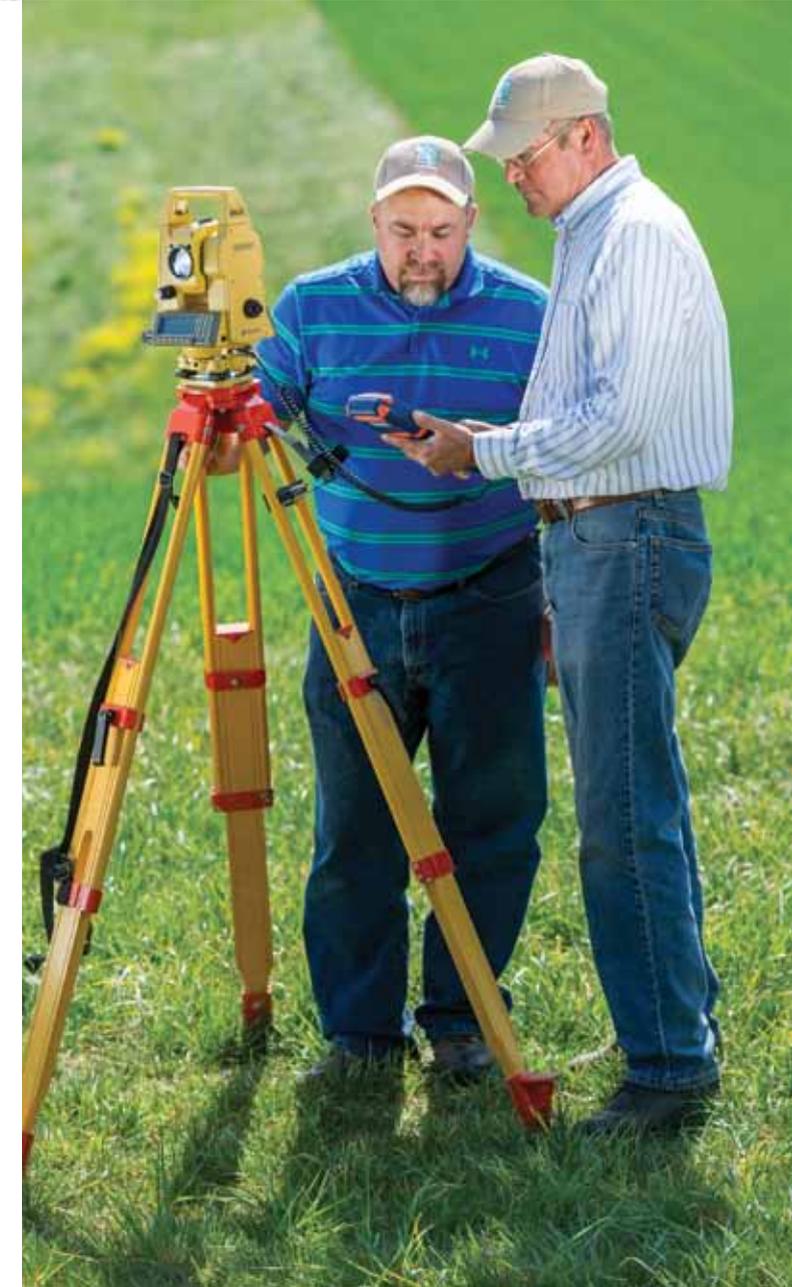
Eligibility

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 best management practices 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 best management practices, supervise their installation and construction, and develop operation and maintenance plans to keep them in good working order. Districts 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