



## Maryland's Conservation Buffer Initiative Application Instructions

1. Complete all boxes in blue in Section I
2. Proceed to Section II. Refer to the Program Table for practice information.
  - Step 1:** Select the proposed Practice Name. Use additional rows for each proposed conservation buffer area.
  - Step 2:** Identify if the Practice will be a New or Improved Conservation Buffer, or is an Existing Grass Buffer
  - Step 3:** Provide the Farm and Tract Number where the conservation buffer would be installed, improved, or exists. Farm and Tract numbers are assigned by the Farm Service Agency. **A map locating the conservation buffer area must also be included with the application.**
  - Step 4:** Provide the estimated acres for each conservation buffer area.
  - Step 5:** Select the correct payment rate for the proposed conservation e.g. Watercourse Access Control with a Narrow Grass Buffer pays \$1,500 per acre.
  - Step 6:** Calculate payment for each conservation buffer area by multiplying estimated acres (Step 4) x payment rate (Step 5).
  - Step 7:** Add all rows from Step 6 for a Total Estimated Funding amount
3. Sign and date the application form. Read all acknowledgments carefully.
4. Submit signed application along with map depicting the buffer location and acreage, and a Nutrient Management Certification Form to the Department by February 5, 2021.
5. Applications may be mailed to **Maryland Department of Agriculture, c/o Conservation Buffer Initiative, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis MD 21401** or emailed to [conservation.buffer@maryland.gov](mailto:conservation.buffer@maryland.gov)

Conservation Buffer Payment Options				
Practice Name	Adjacent Land Use	One-Time Payment (New or Improved)	One-Time Payment (Existing)	Agreement Term (Years)
<b>Watercourse Access Control</b> Narrow Grass Buffer 10 ft – 34 ft wide	Pasture	\$1,500/acre	none	5
<b>Watercourse Access Control</b> Grass Buffer 35 ft – 100 ft wide	Pasture	\$2,500/acre	none	5
<b>Watercourse Access Control</b> Forest Buffer: 35 ft – 100 ft wide	Pasture	\$3,500/acre	none	10
<b>Grass Buffer on Watercourse –</b> Narrow Buffer: 10 ft – 34 ft wide	Cropland	\$1,000/acre	\$500/acre	5
<b>Grass Buffer on Watercourse –</b> 35 ft – 100 ft wide	Cropland	\$2,000/acre	\$500/acre	5
<b>Forest Buffer on Watercourse</b> 35 ft – 100 ft wide	Cropland	\$3,000/acre	none	10

# MARYLAND CONSERVATION BUFFER INITIATIVE APPLICATION

For MDA Use:  
Agreement #:

## Section I - APPLICANT INFORMATION

1) SS/FID Number:	2) District:	3) Phone Number:	4) Email Address
5) NAME and Address (of person or entity to receive check) include farm/corporate name (if any):		6) Do you have a Soil & Water Conservation Plan?	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Name/Farm Name:	7) Do you have a current Nutrient Management Plan?		Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Name (c/o):	8) I plan to start this project by:		Month: Year:
Address:			
City/State:	9) It will be completed by:		Month: Year:
Zip:			

Public Information Notice – The principle purpose of this application is to identify whom the agency intends to give State funds. If you fail to provide the requested information, MDA may not provide you with funds. You have the right to inspect, amend, or correct personal information collected by the agency. Much of the personal information collected by the agency is available for public inspection. This information is not routinely shared with state, federal, or local government

Certification - I request financial assistance under this program to support the state's water quality goals. I have read the program guidelines and understand the steps involved for approval. I understand I am not guaranteed funds until I have received a copy of my signed and dated agreement from the Maryland Department of Agriculture. I also understand in the event that demand of funds for this program exceeds allotted funding, a ranking process will be implemented to select funded acres and I may not be approved for all acreage I applied for. In order to receive payments for implementation of this practice, I agree to be in compliance with the state's nutrient management requirements (MD Agric. Code Ann. §§8-801-8-806 and COMAR 15.20.06-08).

Signature (Tenant, if applicable)	Date	Signature (Landowner)	Date

**Include w/ Application: 1) Map depicting buffer location and estimated acres, and  
2) Nutrient Management Certification Form**

## SECTION II - - TECHNICAL REPORT

10) STEP 1 - Selected Practice Name	11) STEP 2 - Establish, Improve, or Existing?	12) STEP 3 - Buffer Farm & Tract No.	13) STEP 4 - Estimated Buffer Acres	14) STEP 5 - Payment Rate	15) STEP 6 - Payment (Acres X Rate)
16) STEP 7 - Estimate of Funding					

## For MDA Use: SECTION III - DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY

This document may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, and all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument. Signatures provided by electronic means including, by way of example and not of limitation, facsimile, Adobe, PDF, and sent by electronic mail, or via an electronic signature program, shall be deemed to be original.

SCD has reviewed this application and finds the project to be eligible and consistent with MDA Conservation Buffer Initiative requirements. The designated staff certifies the project can meet MDA RI Improvement standards and specifications, and addresses a water quality concern.	17) Signature (Authorized SCD Representative):	Date:
	18) Signature (SCD Manager):	Date:
The Maryland Department of Agriculture has determined that this application (is) (is not) eligible for funding for the estimated amount shown above.	19) Signature (MDA Representative):	Date:

**For MDA Use:**

**SECTION IV - APPLICATION APPROVAL**

The Maryland Department of Agriculture certifies this application for this conservation buffer is in order and is approved.

20) Fund Source:

21) Approval Amount:

Signature (MDA Representative):

Date:

**Applications may be mailed to Maryland Department of Agriculture, c/o Conservation Buffer Initiative, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Room 306, Annapolis, MD 21401 or emailed to [conservation.buffer@maryland.gov](mailto:conservation.buffer@maryland.gov)**

**Applications must be received by 11:59 EST on February 5, 2021 to be considered.**