

## Get Started Today

Your local soil conservation district has a team of technical experts that can help you select the right practice for your farm and apply for state and federal cost-share assistance. In addition, district staff will provide you with free technical assistance and supervision during all phases of construction. Applicants must be in good standing with MACS and in compliance with Maryland's nutrient management regulations. Please contact your soil conservation district today to arrange for someone to come to your farm.

### Maryland's Soil Conservation Districts

<b>Allegany</b>	301-777-1747, ext. 3	alleganyscd.com
<b>Anne Arundel</b>	410-571-6757	aascd.org
<b>Baltimore Co.</b>	410-527-5920, ext. 3	bcscd.org
<b>Calvert</b>	410-535-1521, ext. 3	calvertsoil.org
<b>Caroline</b>	410-479-1202, ext. 3	
<b>Carroll</b>	410-848-8200, ext. 3	carrollsoil.com
<b>Catoctin</b>	301-695-2803, ext. 3	catocctinfrederickscd.com
<b>Cecil</b>	410-398-4411, ext. 3	cecilscd.com
<b>Charles</b>	301-638-3028	charlesscd.com
<b>Dorchester</b>	410-228-5640, ext. 3	
<b>Frederick</b>	301-695-2803, ext. 3	catocctinfrederickscd.com
<b>Garrett</b>	301-501-5886	garrettscd.org
<b>Harford</b>	410-638-4828	harfordscd.org
<b>Howard</b>	410-313-0680	howardscd.org
<b>Kent</b>	410-778-5150, ext. 3	kentsoilandwaterconservationdistrict.org
<b>Montgomery</b>	301-590-2855	montgomeryscd.org
<b>Prince George's</b>	301-574-5162, ext. 3	pgscd.org
<b>Queen Anne's</b>	410-758-3136, ext. 3	qascd.com
<b>St. Mary's</b>	301-475-8402, ext. 3	stmarysscd.com
<b>Somerset</b>	410-621-9310	
<b>Talbot</b>	410-822-1577, ext. 5	talbotscd.com
<b>Washington Co.</b>	301-797-6821, ext. 3	conservationplace.com
<b>Wicomico</b>	410-546-4777, ext. 3	
<b>Worcester</b>	410-632-5439, ext. 3	



## Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of Resource Conservation

### Conservation Grants Program

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## Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of Resource Conservation

# Cost-Share Grants for Conservation Drainage Practices

Help for farmers who want to improve field productivity and protect water quality

# MACS

# Conservation Drainage Can Improve Your Farm

Keeping crop nutrients in your fields and out of nearby waterways is the right thing to do for your farm, your bottom line, and the Chesapeake Bay. But did you know there's a way to curb nutrient losses, improve your farm's productivity, and protect nearby waterways without breaking the bank?

Cost-share grants are now available from the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program to help farmers cover the cost of installing conservation drainage practices on farms to reduce nutrient runoff and protect water quality downstream. Grants cover up to 87.5 percent of the cost to install a practice. In many instances, MACS grants can be combined with federal cost-share programs to make installation of these practices very affordable.

## Improving Existing Subsurface Field Drainage Systems

Agricultural drainage is an important component of modern crop production. Drainage ditches are common on Maryland's Eastern Shore where a network of ditches covers large areas of the Delmarva Peninsula. The conservation drainage practices cost-shared by MACS collect and treat drainage water from existing subsurface drainage systems before it enters a stream or drainage ditch. All are edge of field practices that don't take a lot of land out of production and are relatively easy to install and maintain.

## Conservation Drainage Benefits

- Removes nutrients from drainage water before it leaves the farm
- Can reduce soil and sediment losses
- Improves crop productivity and profitability

## Eligible Conservation Drainage Practices

The following conservation drainage best management practices and components are eligible for cost-share funding through MACS:

- **SUBSURFACE DENITRIFYING BIOREACTOR**
- **SATURATED BUFFER**
- **WETLAND CREATION**
- **SUBSURFACE DRAINS**
- **UNDERGROUND OUTLETS**
- **WATER CONTROL STRUCTURES**

## What to Expect

A typical conservation drainage project will include the installation of a water control structure and an underground water drainage collection system to support the creation of a denitrifying bioreactor, saturated buffer, or wetland. A Drainage Water Management Plan developed by the local soil conservation district is required for all drainage conservation projects as a condition of cost-share. Technical staff in your soil conservation district will develop this plan for you free of charge.



