

“ *To exist as a nation, to prosper as a state, and to live as a people, we must have trees.*

— Theodore Roosevelt

Maryland Farmers and Landowners:

Get paid to

Plant Trees



Check out our Directory of Tree Planting Incentive Programs

We understand that farmers want to keep farmland in production. But if you own cropland next to a stream, or even just a few acres of marginal crop or pastureland that you would like to convert to forestland for agronomic, environmental, or wildlife benefits, please check out our full range of attractive tree planting incentive programs.

DID YOU KNOW?

Trees benefit farmland...

- Trees provide shade for farm animals.
- Trees shelter crops from harsh winds and rain.
- Trees provide habitat for game and wildlife.

Why we need trees...

- When planted as a buffer next to streams, trees filter pollutants from the land and keep the water cool for fish and aquatic animals.
- Trees filter the air and absorb carbon from the atmosphere to help reduce the effects of climate change.
- Trees add beauty and color to the landscape and can provide a stunning frame for your property.

TREE PLANTING INCENTIVE PROGRAMS



Maryland's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

CREP is a federal-state partnership program that pays farmers and rural landowners attractive land rental rates to take environmentally sensitive cropland and pastureland out of production for 10 to 15 years and install best management practices to protect local streams and create wildlife habitat. Farmers who plant riparian forest buffers next to streams **qualify for a one-time BONUS PAYMENT of \$1,000/acre.** Please note: the bonus payment is for NEW

enrollments only. Re-enrollments are not eligible. This program is a good investment for landowners looking to supplement farm earnings with a steady, dependable income stream. Please contact your local USDA Farm Service Agency to apply. *Free technical help and up to 100% cost-share are available through local soil conservation districts to install the buffer.*

Programs continued...



Conservation Buffer Initiative

This program offers farmers and rural landowners attractive incentive payments to plant streamside buffers on farmland to improve the health of local streams and the Chesapeake Bay. Farmers can receive up to \$4,500/acre to install a riparian forest buffer with pasture fencing. Riparian forest buffers also qualify for a **one-time BONUS PAYMENT of \$1,000/acre**. Free technical assistance is provided by the local soil conservation district. Visit the website at bit.ly/MDA_Buffer for annual enrollment dates.



Healthy Soils Competitive Fund

This competitive grant program awards selected applicants with up to \$50,000 to support 3 years of enhanced soil health practices. Agroforestry practices to improve soil health and build climate resilience are a great fit. You can apply for these grants during open enrollment, which runs for approximately 10 weeks beginning in November.



Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share Program

This program provides farmers with up to 100 percent cost-share to install the following high-priority conservation practices. Free technical assistance is provided by local soil conservation districts:

- **Riparian Forest Buffer (NRCS Code 391)**

Trees, shrubs and grasses planted along waterways improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat. MACS offers up to 100% cost-share for this practice and \$2 per planted tree.

- **Hedgerow Planting (NRCS Code 422)**

Small trees, shrubs, and grasses planted along the edges of farm fields or roads filter runoff and act

as a living fence and wildlife corridor. Hedgerows protect air and water quality, reduce noise, provide shelter for wildlife, and can improve your farm's aesthetic value. MACS provides up to 100% cost-share to plant the hedgerow and an additional \$2 per planted tree.

- **Silvopasture (NRCS Code 381)**

Introducing trees into active livestock pastures helps improve soil and water quality, filters runoff, provides shade and shelter for livestock, and captures carbon from the atmosphere. MACS pays up to 87.5% cost-share to install this practice plus \$2 per planted tree.

- **Tree and Shrub Establishment (NRCS Code 612)**

Establishing trees and shrubs on agricultural land outside the stream corridor improves water quality and captures carbon from the atmosphere. This practice can be applied on any site capable of growing woody plants, including land in conservation programs sponsored by USDA, other federal and state agencies, and private organizations. MACS provides up to 100% cost-share to install this practice and an additional \$2 per planted tree.

- **Windbreak Establishment (NRCS Code 380)**

Trees and shrubs planted in rows near chicken houses, barnyard areas, and property borders improve air quality, create visual screens, protect against winter winds, and provide shade and habitat for wildlife. MACS offers up to 100% cost-share for this practice and \$2 per planted tree.

How to Apply for our Grants

Local soil conservation districts are ready to answer your questions and help you apply for our tree-planting incentive programs. Visit our website for a directory of local offices.



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of Resource Conservation

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to visit our website.

