

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## News Release

Lord Fairfax Soil and Water Conservation District  
130 Carriebrooke Drive  
Stephens City, VA 22655-6000

# Virginia Soil & Water Conservation Cost Share Program Sign-Up Begins

The Lord Fairfax Soil and Water Conservation District will begin accepting applications for Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP) cost-share funds at the start of the new fiscal year on July 1, 2008. Funds will be available for practices through May 2009 or until the available funds are obligated. 80% of the funds will be allocated to priority practices as defined by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation program guidelines.

Priority practices include cover crops, nutrient management, fencing for stream exclusion of livestock (with alternative water troughs), practices that address animal waste concerns, and no-till practices. Producers of all crops and animals, including bona fide farmers, with at least \$1000 of verifiable farm income and at least 5 acres are eligible to apply. Those who have not previously participated in the cost-share program and have an environmental need are encouraged to apply.

All practices are ranked by environmental benefit (water quality improvement) against other applications for the same practice. For example, a request for funding for a BMP on a tract of land that is highly erodible and near a TMDL (impaired) listed stream or tributary will always be rated higher than a flat tract not near water. There are a number of high priority impaired streams in the Shenandoah River watershed that would receive preference for available funds in the District's jurisdiction, which includes the Counties of Clarke, Frederick, Shenandoah, and Warren.

In the current fiscal year (2007-2008), Lord Fairfax SWCD provided more than \$700,000 to over 75 farmers on over 8,200 acres for BMP cost-shared practices, which was more than any other District in the state.

For additional information, call or visit the District's conservation specialists at (540) 868-1130, Ext. 3 (Stephens City) or (540) 459-5734, Ext. 108 (Woodstock).



We work with the people who work the land.