

# Funding Available for Conservation

## Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share Program (VACS)

Virginia's Agricultural Cost-Share Program offers more than 70 conservation best management practices (BMPs) that cover the full spectrum of agricultural operations. Whether you grow crops, raise livestock or poultry, there are BMPs that can benefit you.

Many of these practices increase farm productivity by conserving soil, retaining nutrients and making wise use of resources. They also improve and protect water quality.



The VACS program will share the cost to implement best management practices (BMPs) that reduce nutrient and sediment losses and improve water quality. To be eligible for the VACS program, the agricultural land must have at least five contiguous acres and produce at least \$1,000 of agricultural products. The VACS program is administered by local Soil and Water Conservation Districts with oversight by the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

### Eligible practices include: *(a partial list)*

- Stream exclusion with alternative water systems
- Planting cover crops
- Installing stream-side riparian buffers
- Planting tree seedlings on hay, pasture or cropland
- Cropland conversion to pasture or hay production
- Animal waste storage
- Nutrient management

### Things to remember:

The VACS program year begins on July 1st. If you are interested in implementing a BMP on your farm contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to learn more about the application process.

### Projects must:

- Be approved by the local SWCD.
- Meet technical specifications.
- Pass a field inspection, prior to receiving cost share payment.
- Be maintained for the lifespan of the practice.
- Be subject to verification spot checks throughout the lifespan of the project.

## Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District:

**Lord Fairfax: 540-465-2424 ext. 5**  
(Clarke, Frederick, Warren, Shenandoah, City of Winchester)

**Shenandoah Valley: 540-534-3105**  
(Rockingham, Page, City of Harrisonburg)

**Headwaters: 540-248-0148**  
(Augusta, City of Staunton, City of Waynesboro)



# Soil and Water Conservation Districts Serving the Shenandoah Valley

## About Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)

Organized under the Soil Conservation District Law as passed by the Virginia General Assembly of 1938, SWCDs work to conserve, protect and enhance the quality of our region's soil and water. The State provides funds to SWCDs to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) in accordance with the VACS program. SWCDs work in cooperation with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), State and Local governments, and conservation partners.

## The Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program (VACS)

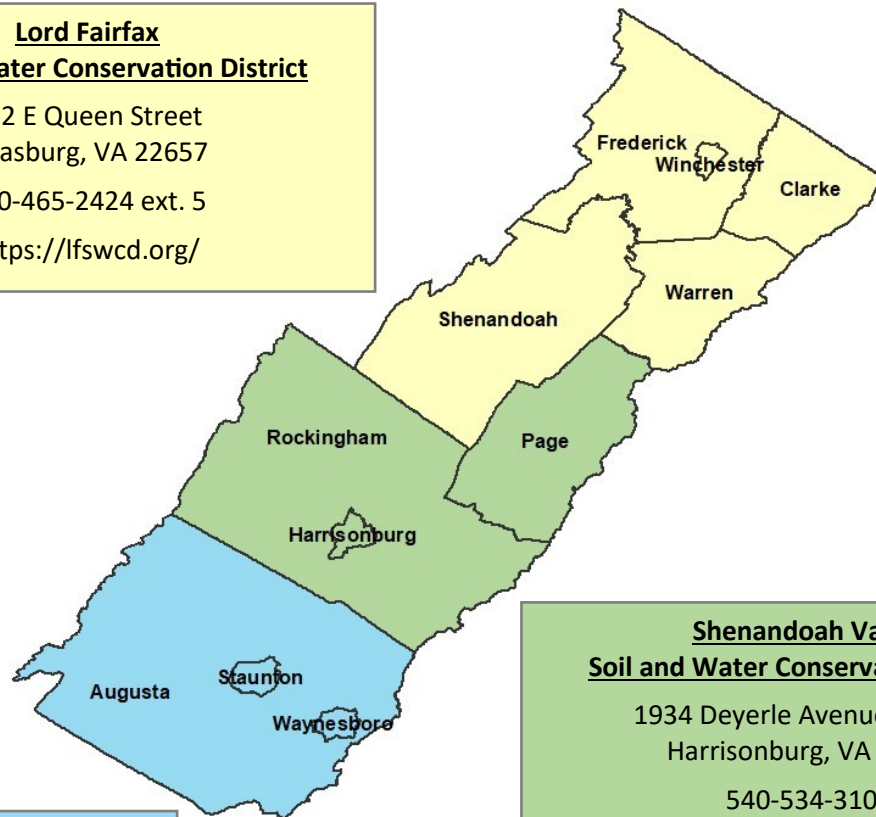
VACS is a cost-share and tax credit program designed to improve and protect soil and water quality on agricultural acreage. VACS offers funding for over 70 conservation practices, covering the full spectrum of agricultural operations. Each year, SWCDs receive VACS funding to implement BMPs and offer technical assistance to landowners interested in conservation.

## How our Programs Work

The first step is to contact your local SWCD to set up an appointment for staff to visit your operation and discuss conservation opportunities. Following the visit, a conservation plan will be developed for your property. Once your plan is approved by the local SWCD Board, you will be notified and installation of your project may begin. Once completed, staff will verify construction and reimburse eligible costs (BMP rates and caps vary).

### Lord Fairfax Soil and Water Conservation District

722 E Queen Street  
Strasburg, VA 22657  
540-465-2424 ext. 5  
<https://lfswcd.org/>



### Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

1934 Deyerle Avenue, Suite B  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801  
540-534-3105  
<https://svswcd.org/>

### Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District

70 Dick Huff Lane  
Verona, VA 24482  
540-248-0148  
<https://headwaterswcd.org/>

