

## Sign program

The final step in the resource management planning process is state certification of your plan. Once your plan is certified, you may buy a sign for your property to display your participation in this unique water-quality program.

The Resource Management Plan program, a component of the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practice Cost-Share Program, is managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and implemented by soil and water conservation districts.



## Where can I find more information?

Visit [www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/rmp](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/rmp) or call a DCR-certified resource management plan specialist at 540-332-9231 or 804-371-0297.

*This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) under a Section 319 grant agreement #2016-DCR-TMDL 319H15-0 to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).*



# Resource Management Planning

## VIRGINIA'S AGRICULTURAL CERTAINTY PROGRAM



# Resource Management Planning

## Virginia's Agricultural Certainty Program

Resource management plans are designed to encourage farmers to use a high level of best management practices that reduce runoff pollution to surface and ground waters and the Chesapeake Bay. In many cases these practices improve the farmer's bottom line.

In return for full implementation of these plans, farmers have "certainty" that they are in compliance with new state nutrient, sediment and bacteria-related water quality requirements implemented during the life of their plan. Certainty is in effect for nine years with compliance inspections every three. Participation is completely voluntary.

The resource management plan concept was developed at the urging of the Virginia agricultural community. The approach provides a comprehensive assessment of both the conservation needs and accomplishments of a farming operation. RMPs serve as a tool to encourage additional BMP implementation and document conservation practices already in use, providing verified data that validates participating farmers' level of conservation implementation.

Better documentation of agricultural best management practices through the plans also provides decision makers more accurate data when determining future funding needs for cost-share and other incentive programs.

### What are the requirements?

A farmer may choose to have a resource management plan on either the whole farm or a portion of it. Plans must include, at a minimum, these specific best management practices:

- Thirty-five-foot buffers on perennial streams on crop and hay land.
- Livestock exclusion from perennial streams in pastures.
- The development of a soil conservation plan to "T" and a nutrient management plan on all fields.

### Is funding available?

Cost-share funds are available to cover the development of resource management plans. Cost-share funding also is available for most of the best management practices needed to meet requirements of the resource management plan. Once fully implemented, a farmer is eligible for an additional cost-share incentive payment. Local soil and water conservation districts can help farmers apply.

### How do you get a plan?

Plans are developed by certified resource management plan developers. These developers must be certified nutrient management planners and have a demonstrated ability in water quality and conservation planning. Visit the DCR website for a list of certified resource management planners in your region.

