

# 2010 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative At A Glance

The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative (CBWI) provides producers with technical and financial assistance to minimize excess nutrients and sediments in order to restore, preserve, and protect the Chesapeake Bay. Priority will be given to applicants located within the priority watersheds.

## Natural Resource Concerns

### Animals in Confinement



Assistance with animal waste storage and handling facilities for livestock including dairy, swine, and poultry and to apply organic nutrients more efficiently.

### Cropland



Assistance to reduce erosion, protect water quality, and improve soil quality using crop rotations, cover crops, residue management and no-till.

### Grazing Lands



Assistance to plan and implement rotational grazing systems, establish riparian buffers, and apply nutrients more efficiently.

### Special Initiative: Shellfish Aquaculture



Pilot program to help shellfish growers improve the water quality that shellfish need to thrive through gear cycling/disposal.

## The Assistance

NRCS will offer incentive payments for specific conservation practices related to livestock exclusion and buffers, nutrient management, crop rotations, and cover crops. Many additional conservation practices will also be eligible for financial assistance. The chart below lists examples of **priority** conservation practices. **Companion practices** such as animal walkways and trails, pumping plants, contour farming, and fences are also eligible for financial assistance.

Resource Concern	Priority Practices	Remarks
Animals in Confinement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Waste Storage Facility</li> <li>▪ Animal Mortality</li> <li>▪ Composting Facility</li> <li>▪ Sinkhole/Sinkhole Area Treatment</li> <li>▪ Nutrient Management</li> </ul>	Virginia comprehensive nutrient management plan (CNMP) is required when payment is for a waste facility. No payment available for developing a CNMP.
Grazing Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Riparian Buffers or 10-Foot Setbacks</li> <li>▪ Pasture &amp; Hayland Planting</li> <li>▪ Fencing</li> <li>▪ Water Troughs and Pipelines</li> </ul>	For prescribed grazing payments, all components of the prescribed grazing plan must be in place and livestock managed according to the plan.
Cropland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conservation Crop Rotation</li> <li>▪ Residue and Tillage Management</li> <li>▪ Erosion Control Practices</li> <li>▪ Cover Crop</li> </ul>	Rotations that address soil health and accumulate organic matter. Payments may only be made to applicants who have not adopted the practice on fields that will be in the contract.
Shellfish Aquaculture Pilot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gear Cycling/Disposal</li> </ul>	

## Eligibility and Sign Up

Residents living within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed can sign up for specific practices under the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative. Applications are accepted continuously throughout the year. NRCS will evaluate, rank, prioritize and approve applications beginning at the end of February 2010. Applications from high priority watersheds will receive additional consideration in the ranking process.

CBWI activities are carried out according to a conservation plan developed with the producer. Priority practices can be used to complement practices available through state cost-share programs. Payments vary by individual practice and can be viewed at [www.va.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/](http://www.va.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/).

Producers should contact their local NRCS office to determine if they are in a high priority watershed. Interested individuals should apply as soon as possible so NRCS staff can begin processing applications and developing conservation plans. The cutoff for the first ranking period is February 26, 2010.

