

VIRGINIA CLEAN WATER FARM AWARD



About the awards

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation is proud to sponsor the Clean Water Farm Award Program. Virginia farmers who implement conservation practices are doing their part to preserve water quality. They deserve recognition and thanks. These individuals also are role models who encourage stewardship in others.

Farmers spend time, energy and hard-earned money implementing conservation practices. But they aren't the only ones who benefit from their treatment of the land. When nutrients, pesticides and chemicals are kept out of local waterways, quality of life is maintained — and even improved — for countless people and wildlife.

The winners are ...

Farmers and landowners who receive the Virginia Clean Water Farm Award are progressive in managing their farm operations and have adopted and implemented innovative conservation tools, technologies and practices. If you are a farmer or landowner whose farm exemplifies the use of practices that protect and enhance water quality, you can be nominated for a Virginia Clean Water Farm Award. Simply contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for assistance in completing this form.



Grand Basin Award

From the pool of Virginia Clean Water Farm Award recipients, up to 10 grand winners are selected each year from Virginia's major river basins. The nominees are submitted from individual SWCDs. Grand Basin Award winners must meet criteria of the Clean Water Farm Award and demonstrate exceptional conservation on their lands and in management of their operations. Grand Basin Award winners receive special recognition, in addition to the standard sign and certificate. These awards are presented for the following river basins: Big Sandy-Tennessee Rivers, Chowan River, Coastal, James River, New-Yadkin Rivers, Potomac River, Rappahannock River, Roanoke River, Shenandoah River and the York River.

Clean Water Farm Award APPLICATION

Name of owner/operator: _____

Farm name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

River basin and hydrologic unit: _____

Please provide a brief statement (1-2 sentences) on why the applicant is deserving of the **Clean Water Farm Award**:

Agronomic, Forestry and Aquatic Management Practices

For the following categories that are applicable to the operation, briefly summarize cropping rotations and systems, number of acres, types of animals, number of animals, animals per acre and all conservation practices that go along with the different aspects of management practices on the farm. Attach a separate sheet, if necessary.

Cropland:

Livestock:

Hay Land:

Pasture:

Woodland:

Aquaculture:

Other:

Does the farm have adequate waste-storage facilities?	Check one.	Yes	No	n/a
Does the farm follow a waste-management plan?	Check one.	Yes	No	n/a
Are plant and tissue samples routinely taken?	Check one.	Yes	No	n/a

Natural Resource Management Plans

Please check the plans being implemented by the applicant.

Agricultural Waste Management System Plan
Nutrient Management Plan
Resource Management System Plan
Conservation Plan
Multi-resource Forest Management Plan
Forest Stewardship Management Plan

Conservation Activity Plan — Forest Management Plan
(CAP 106 Plan through NRCS)
Tree Farm Management Plan
Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Plan
Integrated Pest Management Plan
Prescribed Grazing Plan
Other _____ (list)

What percentage of farm or forest lands is covered under these plans? _____

Conservation Practices

For each practice, list acreage and summarize conservation information, including crop rotations, planting dates of crops, lengths and widths of buffers, and feet of stream excluded. Provide as much detail as needed to convey all types of conservation practices that are implemented on the farm. Attach a separate sheet, if necessary.

Conservation Tillage Practices:

Rotational Grazing:

Cover Crops:

Livestock Exclusion:

Crop Management Practices:

Riparian Buffers:

Livestock Management Practices:

Soil Erosion Prevention Structures and Practices:

Agricultural Waste Management Systems:

Other:

Education and Outreach Programs

Please list and explain all educational and outreach activities that take place on the farm or that the applicant is involved with in the community, such as plot work, field days, hosting school groups, etc.

Wildlife Management Practices

Please list and describe any wildlife management practices that are implemented on the farm and their benefits to clean water and the environment.

Applicant Signature

I have reviewed the Clean Water Farm Award application, and it accurately reflects conservation on this farm. To the best of my knowledge, the farm complies with all local, state and federal conservation requirements.

Farmer's signature: _____ Date: _____

List the farm name and name(s) as they should appear on the award certificate.

SWCD Review

At the _____ (date) meeting of the _____ (district) Soil and Water Conservation District Board, the preceding information was evaluated and approved. The applicant has shown exemplary use of conservation practices and shown commitment to protecting our state's waters.

SWCD Chairman

Date of board approval
(As shown in district minutes)

THANK YOU, Virginia farmers, for doing your part to improve the quality of Virginia waters.

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation programs, activities and employment opportunities are available to all people regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin or political affiliation.

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