

Virginia's Clean Water Farm Award

About the awards

Let's celebrate the Clean Water Farm Award Program, proudly sponsored by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation!

Virginia's dedicated farmers, leading by example, are preserving water quality through conservation practices. They deserve our gratitude and admiration as role models inspiring others to be stewards of the land. By investing their time, energy and resources, these farmers not only benefit their operations but also enhance the lives of countless individuals and wildlife — improving the quality of life for Virginia.

How to apply

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 this award. In fact, anyone may nominate a farmer or farm for a Clean Water Farm Award.

Simply complete this form and submit it to your soil and water conservation district. Your district is also happy to help with the application.

With 47 districts in Virginia — covering 94 counties and 18 cities — there's ample opportunity for recognition.

Winners receive a certificate signed by the governor, and a sign to proudly display on their farm. Previous winners can still be eligible to win again.

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to showcase your commitment to clean water. Get in touch with your local district today!



Clean Water Farm Award APPLICATION

Name of owner/operator *(as it should appear on a certificate)*: _____

Farm name *(as it should appear on a certificate)*: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

River basin and hydrologic unit: _____

Soil and water conservation district: _____

Please provide state briefly (1-2 sentences) 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.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Does the farm follow a waste-management plan?	Check one.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Are plant and tissue samples routinely taken?	Check one.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS

Please check the plans being implemented by the applicant.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Waste Management System Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Activity Plan — Forest Management Plan (CAP 106 Plan through NRCS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrient Management Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Farm Management Plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resource Management Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Pest Management Plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-resource Forest Management Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Prescribed Grazing Plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Stewardship Management Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> 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.