







# Overview of Water Quality Financial Assistance Programs

AGR.WaterQuality@Vermont.gov // 802-828-2431





PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DUE DATE	MORE INFORMATION
<p><b>Farm Agronomic Practices Program</b></p> <p><b>FAP</b></p>	<p>Financial assistance to Vermont farms for implementation of soil-based agronomic practices that improve soil quality and reduce runoff and erosion. Financial assistance for educational or instructional activities also available. <b>Per/acre payment rates based on practice type.</b></p>	<p>At least 30 days prior to practice implementation. Cover cropping applications due by August 1</p>	<p>Agriculture.vermont.gov/FAP Sonia Howlett: 802-522-4655</p> 
<p><b>Best Management Practices Program</b></p> <p><b>BMP</b></p>	<p>Technical and financial assistance program focusing on engineered and structural on-farm improvements which protect or promote water quality. <b>Up to 90% State cost share towards eligible practices &amp; expenses.</b></p>	<p>April 1 priority due date. Applications continually accepted.</p>	<p>Agriculture.vermont.gov/BMP Emma Redel: 802-261-5628 OR Ellen Friedrich: 802-261-5629</p> 
<p><b>Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program</b></p> <p><b>CREP</b></p>	<p>Technical and financial assistance program designed to reduce sediment runoff and improve water quality by removing land from agricultural production and establishing vegetative buffers. <b>Up to 100% cost share towards implementation costs, plus incentive, annual rental, &amp; maintenance payments.</b></p>	<p>Program inquiries accepted on a first come first serve basis</p>	<p>Agriculture.vermont.gov/CREP Ben Gabos: 802-461-3814</p> 
<p><b>Capital Equipment Assistance Program</b></p> <p><b>CEAP</b></p>	<p>Financial assistance for new or innovative equipment that will improve water quality, improve manure management, separate phosphorus (P) from manure, or decrease greenhouse gas emissions. <b>Funding limits dependent on equipment type. Up to 90% State cost share.</b></p>	<p>Applications due by November 1</p>	<p>Agriculture.Vermont.gov/CEAP Sonia Howlett: 802-522-4655</p> 
<p><b>Grassed Waterway and Filter Strip Program</b></p> <p><b>GWFS</b></p>	<p>Technical and financial assistance to address erosion and surface runoff through the establishment of perennially vegetated and harvestable grassed waterways, filter strips, and critical source area seedings. <b>Per acre incentive payments and up to 90% State cost share for implementation costs.</b></p>	<p>Program inquiries accepted on a first come first serve basis</p>	<p>Agriculture.Vermont.gov/GWFS Ellen Friedrich: 802-261-5629</p> 
<p><b>Pasture and Surface Water Fencing Program</b></p> <p><b>PSWF</b></p>	<p>Pasture management technical and financial assistance to Vermont farmers to improve water quality and on-farm livestock exclusion from surface waters statewide. <b>Up to 90% State cost share for implementation costs.</b></p>	<p>Program inquiries accepted on a first come first serve basis</p>	<p>Agriculture.Vermont.gov/PSWF Mary Montour: 802-461-6087</p> 

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<b>Vermont Farmers Ecosystem Stewardship Program</b> <b>CSP-Assist</b>	Supplemental financial assistance to support farmers to enroll in the USDA-NRCS Conservation Stewardship program (CSP). <b>Payment for completing CSP assessment. Additional payment for signing CSP contract.</b>	Applications due by November.  Funding on first come first serve basis.	Agriculture.vermont.gov/CSP-Assist Noah Gilbert-Fuller: 802-505-3407 
<b>Vermont Pay for Performance Program</b> <b>VPPF</b>	Innovative, performance-based program which provides financial compensation for reducing phosphorus (P) losses from farms. <b>Payment based on modeled P reductions across farm operation.</b>	Applications accepted in January	Agriculture.vermont.gov/VPPF Nina Gage: 802-622-4098 

## Additional Financial and Technical Service Providers for Agricultural Water Quality Assistance

ASSISTANCE PROVIDER	CONTACT
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	Find your local NRCS office at <a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/find-a-service-center">www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/find-a-service-center</a>
Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB)	802-828-3250 OR <a href="http://www.VHCB.org">www.VHCB.org</a>
Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD) & your local Conservation District	<a href="http://www.vacd.org">www.vacd.org</a> OR Find your local conservation district at <a href="http://www.vacd.org/contact-nrcds/">www.vacd.org/contact-nrcds/</a>
University of Vermont (UVM) Extension	802-656-2990 or 866-622-2990 Contact your local Extension office at <a href="http://www.uvm.edu/extension/contact-us">www.uvm.edu/extension/contact-us</a>
Your local Farmers Coalition and/or Watershed Alliance	<a href="http://www.cvfc-vt.com">www.cvfc-vt.com</a> <a href="http://www.farmerswatershedalliance.org">www.farmerswatershedalliance.org</a> <a href="http://www.crwfa.org">www.crwfa.org</a>