

Pasture & Surface Water Fencing (PSWF) Program



The Pasture Surface Water Fencing (PSWF) program provides pasture management technical assistance and financial assistance to Vermont farmers. This program intends to improve water quality and on-farm livestock exclusion from surface waters statewide. Contact Mary Montour at (802)-461-6087 or mary.montour@vermont.gov

Visit the program page at agriculture.vermont.gov/pswf

Grants are reviewed year-round, on a first come – first serve basis

Program Information:

- Free technical assistance from experienced grazing specialists.
- Financial assistance to implement improved pasture management, which may include eligible practices as listed.
- Reimburse project expenses up to 90% of the cost to install infrastructure that will improve pasture management, up to the farm’s grant amount.
- Up to \$15,000 grant award per farm when the project has livestock exclusion from surface waters.
- Up to \$10,000 per farm when there is no livestock exclusion from surface waters necessary, but where rotational grazing will be implemented or improved. Rotational grazing requires moving livestock frequently enough to implement a prescribed grazing plan that meets the goals of the PSWF program.

Eligible Practices and Payment Rates:

Practice	Maximum Cost Share
Fence	\$3.50/foot
Livestock Pipeline	No cost share cap
Water Source Development	\$8,000
Watering Facility	No cost share cap
Improved Permanent Water Area	\$8,000
Stream Crossings	\$8,000
Electric Fence Chargers	\$1,000
Trails & Walkways	\$10,000

Partners: [University of Vermont Extension](#), [Vermont Association of Conservation Districts](#), [Vermont Natural Resources Conservation Service](#), [VAAFM Dairy Business Innovation Center](#), [Vermont Grass Farmers Association](#)

Eligibility:

- Farm required to comply with the Required Agricultural Practices.
- Priority is given to farms that have at least 4 acres for the raising, feeding and management of at least five cattle or cows, 15 goats or sheep, four equines, or three camelids.
- Farm manages pastureland where water quality will benefit from implementation of improved pasture management and eligible and/or necessary conservation practices.
- Operator must have ownership or land control for the term of the agreement (10 years).
- Have an insurance policy that allows for the State and its employees and officers to be listed as additional insured.

Please note the following information about this grant program:

- Application does not ensure an award.
- Grant agreements must be in place prior to the start of implementation.
- Farmer is responsible for financing the project during construction and receives reimbursement upon certified project completion.
- Final payment is determined by actual project costs as documented by itemized invoices.
- Farmer's equipment and labor costs are eligible for reimbursement.

Applications can be found online at Agriculture.Vermont.gov/pswf or by contacting the Water Quality Division at (802)828-2431.

