

# VPFP Vermont Pay-For-Phosphorus Program



**Pay-For-Phosphorus** is an innovative pay-for-performance approach that pays farmers for the pounds of phosphorus reduced by implementing conservation practices, as opposed to paying farmers a portion of the cost to install a practice.

- **Pays on results** improving cost-effectiveness and accelerating implementation
- **Flexibility for farms** to manage fields how they choose
- **Complements** existing State and Federal assistance programs (e.g. EQIP, FAP)
- **Statewide** voluntary program available to eligible farms
- **Incentive payments** for program enrollment regardless of farm performance

Each field across a farm will be entered into the *Farm Phosphorus Reduction Planner* (FarmPREP), which will model phosphorus (P) runoff from fields based on field-specific soils, slope, climate, crop, tillage and nutrient information. P runoff will be modeled from historic TMDL management scenarios and compared with current management. Any resulting P runoff reductions that exceed the established threshold will receive a payment per pound of P.

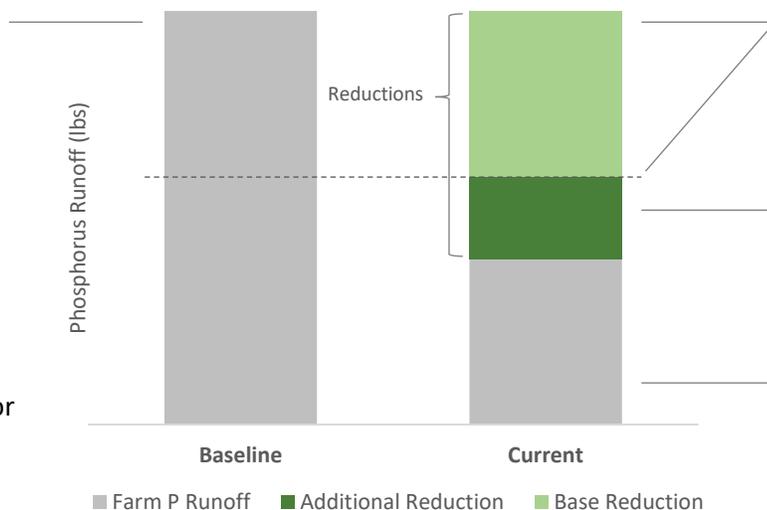
## Eligibility Requirements

- Actively farming in Vermont
- All fields managed (owned and leased) by the farm
- Annual cropland and hayland
- Up-to-date Nutrient Management Plan or Land Treatment Plan
- Good Standing with the Agency for state & federal environmental regulations, including VT's Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs)

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**Base Farm P Runoff** will be modeled based on historic TMDL management scenarios and will act as the baseline from which P runoff reductions are calculated.

Reductions can be achieved via improved nutrient management or conservation practices.



**Base Reductions/Threshold** corresponds to the P reductions that are estimated to be met through existing programs.

**Additional Reductions** beyond the threshold will be paid through the VPFP program based on a set price per pound of P.

**Current Farm P Runoff** based on a farm's current management.