

Vermont Agricultural Buffer Program

Agency/Organization: Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
Program: Vermont Agricultural Buffer Program
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Program Description:

The program promotes water quality by providing incentive payments to plant a 25 foot wide *harvestable* (unlike CREP) perennial filter strip on annual cropland adjacent to a stream. Pays \$90-150/acre per year plus \$123/acre establishment costs. Five-year minimum contract required. No manure allowed on buffer, but fertilizer can be used with soil test and nutrient recommendation. Harvest between June 1st and September 1st only. Most buffers are 25 feet wide unless a water quality concern deems the need for a larger buffer. The participant can leave this program at any time to enroll the same land in another certified buffer program that the land is deemed eligible for, such as CREP.

Assistance Type: Financial; Technical

Financial Assistance: Receive \$123/ acre to plant a harvestable perennial filter strip 25 feet wide on annual cropland adjacent to a stream, plus receive \$90 to \$150/ acre every year to maintain the filter strip.

ELIGIBILITY

Landscape Type: Agriculture

Resource Type: Water Quality

Criteria: Willingness to commit to a 5 year minimum contract and meet contract terms as described above.