

Agricultural Management Assistance

Agency/Organization: Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Program: **Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)**

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Website: [www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/ programs/AMA/](http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/AMA/)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) provides cost share assistance to agricultural producers to voluntarily address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation into their farming operations. Producers may construct or improve water management structures or irrigation structures; plant trees for windbreaks or to improve water quality; and mitigate risk through production diversification or resource conservation practices, including soil erosion control, integrated pest management, or transition to organic farming.

Assistance Type: Financial, Technical

Financial Assistance: Cost-share available for maintaining practices agreed to in an AMA contract developed by NRCS and the landowner through a conservation plan for the land in question. Contracts are for three to ten years. Incentive payments are permitted under AMA.

ELIGIBILITY

Landscape Type: Agriculture

Resource Type: Water Quality, Soil conservation, Wildlife

Criteria: To offer a conservation easement, the landowner must have owned the land for at least 12 months prior to enrolling it in the program, unless the land was inherited, the landowner exercised the landowner's right of redemption after foreclosure, or the landowner can prove the land was not obtained for the purpose of enrolling it in the program. To participate in a restoration cost-share agreement, the landowner must show evidence of ownership. To be eligible for WRP, land must be restorable and be suitable for wildlife benefits. This includes: wetlands farmed under natural conditions; farmed wetlands; prior converted cropland; farmed wetland pasture; farmland that has become a wetland as a result of flooding; range land, pasture, or production forest land where the hydrology has been significantly degraded and can be restored; riparian

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areas which link protected wetlands; lands adjacent to protected wetlands that contribute significantly to wetland functions and values; and/or previously restored wetlands.