

## 2016-2017 Cost-Share Sign-up Periods and Deadlines

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### Cover Crops

Deadline - October 9

### Late Winter Split Application of N to Small Grain

Deadline - January 15

### Split Application of N on Corn

Deadline - March 15

### Nutrient Management Plan Writing or Revising

Deadline - March 15

Sign-up for all other practices is continuous until all funds are allocated.

Cover crop practice applications will be ranked after sign-up period to determine availability of funding and which applications can be funded. Applications must be submitted at least 3 days before monthly board meetings to be approved at that month's board meeting.

Other Soil and Water Conservation Districts may not follow the same sign-up schedule as James River SWCD, so if you farm multiple counties, consult with the individual Districts for their procedures.

## Tax Credits

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Tax Credits can often be the simplest way for producers to get assistance for conservation they are implementing or have already implemented. James River SWCD has many programs that give 25% state income tax credits to producers.

### Buying Equipment?

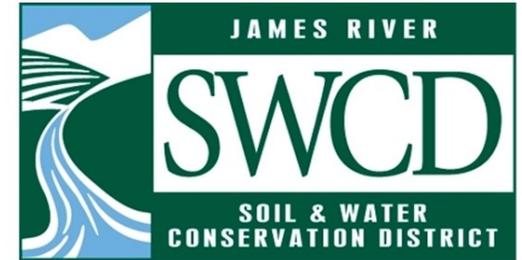
The purchase of conservation tillage and precision agriculture equipment is eligible for a 25% tax credit. Contact JRSWCD for more information.

Tax credits are given based on total cost of item or materials purchased and are credited to the calendar year in which they were purchased. Contact your tax accountant for more information on the use of tax credits.



James River Soil and Water Conservation District programs, activities and employment opportunities are available to all people regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, national origin or political affiliation. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the James River Soil and Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation.



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## 2016-2017 Agricultural Cost- Share BMP Program



An early-planted small grain cover crop can scavenge residual soil Nitrogen from the previous crop, prevent topsoil erosion, and add organic matter to your soil.

## Cost-Share Changes for 2016-2017

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- Cost-share rate for stream exclusion fencing on livestock operations has dropped from 100% to 80%
- All new applicants must fill out a W-9 form
- May 15th “kill by” date for cover crops will no longer be enforced
- If an applicant applies for cover crop cost-share, that acreage is not eligible to receive a tax credit. You may apply for a tax credit OR cost-share, but not both.
- Cover crops may include certain additional species mixed with small grain for the purpose of soil-building (“tillage” radishes, canola) and Nitrogen fixation (crimson clover, hairy vetch)

## Nutrient Management Planning

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Many of the cost-share practices through our programs require a current Nutrient Management Plan. Cost-share is available to cover the cost of nutrient management plans written by private individuals. This practice pays up to \$4/acre for writing or revising a nutrient management plan.

For any cost-share practice that needs a nutrient management plan, it may be worthwhile for a producer to utilize cost-share funds to hire a private nutrient management planner. In the event producers are not able to get nutrient management plans done through private planners, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation can write nutrient management plans for producers free-of-charge.

## Livestock Conservation BMPs

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### Stream Exclusion:

The exclusion of livestock from streams can be a beneficial yet costly endeavor for producers. Cost-share assistance is available for producers who wish to exclude livestock or already have cattle excluded from streams. With cost-share up to 80%, JRSWCD will assist in the installation of stream exclusion fence and alternative watering systems. For producers with livestock already fenced out of streams, the maintenance incentive rate is \$1/ft. to assist in maintenance of exclusion fences.



### Pasture Management:

Livestock feed has been estimated to account for 60% of a livestock producer's budget. Rotational grazing can help producers increase the amount of forage that is available for their livestock throughout the year. Grazing management has been shown to increase efficiency of forage utilization and even allow producers with adequate land to graze year-round, reducing the need for supplemental feeding. If streams and ponds are already fenced off, 50% cost-share is available to add necessary infrastructure to increase grazing management.

### Animal Waste Management:

Handling animal wastes can be a large burden for producers who manage livestock. JRSWCD has cost-share practices that can help with the management, storage and utilization of animal wastes. Depending on the situation producers can get up to 75% cost-share to develop animal waste facilities. These practices range from installing hardened pads for winter feeding areas to large waste storage facilities.

## Cropland Conservation BMPs

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### Conservation Tillage:

Conservation tillage (“no-till”) can be a time and fuel-saving and way to manage crops in Prince George and Chesterfield counties. Reducing tillage has been shown to increase water holding capacity, increase nutrient retention, and decrease erosion. JRSWCD provides cost-share at a rate of \$70/acre to help farmers transition to conservation tillage. For those farmers who already utilize conservation tillage methods, an incentive rate of \$5/acre/year for up to 5 years is available to help you continue managing your crop through conservation tillage.



### Cover Crops:

Providing vegetative cover on the soil surface after crops are harvested is an excellent way to reduce soil erosion and scavenge excess nutrients remaining from the previous cropping season. There are many different cost-share options available for cover crops including small grains that can be harvested the next spring. Cost-share rate will be dependent on the time of planting and the type of cover crop the producer is interested in planting, but ranges from \$15 to \$48 per acre.

### Nutrient Management:

The timely application of nutrients to crops is essential to increasing yields while reducing the input costs of fertilizer. Producers of small grains have the ability to split N applications in late winter to help apply the right amount of nutrient at the right time to promote plant growth. JRSWCD provides cost-share for this at a maximum rate of \$4.50/acre. Split application of N on corn can achieve similar goals. Cost-share is provided to split N application on corn at a maximum rate of \$6.00/acre.