

Farmer Cost-Share Program

Eligibility Requirements and Process

Eligibility Requirements

The Farmer Cost-Share Program is intended to assist farmers in Washtenaw County with implementing conservation on the ground. The WCCD cost-share in particular is aimed at assisting with smaller, low-cost projects that can assist farmers in direct ways that will quickly be implemented on the ground. To be eligible for cost share funds a farmer must meet the following:

- Resident of Washtenaw County or manage land in Washtenaw County and have written permission from the owner to implement project.
- Will be or in process of completing a MAEAP assessment or and NRCS Conservation Plan.
- Can demonstrate a commitment to conservation practices.
- Consider themselves a farmer and not a home gardener.
- Requested service or resource is not readily available through other federal, state or local cost-share programs.

Eligible Services and Resources

The WCCD Farmer Cost-Share Program is designed to be flexible and directed at specific resource concerns each particular farmer is facing. The following is a list of eligible services and resources that is not meant to be exhaustive. All requests are reviewed on a case-by case basis. See below for details on the application and selection process.

The following is a list of some of the potential applications for cost share and is **not meant to be a complete list of all possible projects and programs:**

- Riparian forest buffer
- Cover Crop Installation
- Pollinator Habitat plantings
- Contributions towards high tunnel installation
- Water, Soil and manure samples
- Contributions towards forest management and grazing plans
- Water protection items:
 - Backflow preventers, check valves, RPZ valves, Chemigation valves

- Soil Samples:
 - Samples can be sent to any lab of the producers choosing as long as results are consistent with Land Grant Universities. Soil sample tests may include simple tests for Phosphorus, Potassium, Magnesium, and other micro nutrients. Other tests covered by cost share include PSNT tests (Pre-Sidedress Nitrate Test).
- Materials removal:
 - Underground fuel tanks, old oil containers, chemical jugs
- Well Decommissioning:
 - To achieve MAEAP verification both licensed well drillers and land owners are allowed to decommission abandoned wells. These funds can be used for landowners to purchase Bentonite to decommission the well themselves, or to pay for the full or partial cost for the job to be completed by a licensed well driller
- Farm Safety Materials:
 - Fire extinguishers, spill kits, Emergency Plan tubes, and more
- Water Samples:
 - Water samples that test for Nitrate and Nitrite levels, as well as Bacteria and Coliform detection in potable water wells
 - Field monitoring
- Fuel Pad:
 - Fueling of equipment to be done over an impermeable surface. These funds will cover partial or full payment of approved fuel pads, such as those designed by NAL Liner in Kalkaska, MI. These funds can also be used towards the pouring of concrete

Application and Selection Process

Selection for cost-share is based on meeting the eligibility requirements (listed above), demonstrating need to address a resource concern and confirming installation or purchase of service or product. Cost-share assistance is limited to one farm per fiscal year (Oct 1- Sept 30). Although there is no specific dollar limit to each request, the request will be considered on an ad hoc basis and within the context of other requests submitted at that time. Dollars will be allocated on a rolling basis, first come first serve. The WCCD staff is committed to promoting this cost-share opportunity to all producers across the county to ensure a fair and open opportunity to receive assistance.

The WCCD farmer program staff (Technicians, Conservation Specialist and Executive Director), review incoming cost-share application requests on a monthly basis and allocate funds as requested. The staff review applicants based on eligibility, application and demonstration of need and estimated impact as criteria for funding.



Farmers will purchase their items and provide a receipt to a WCCD technician. Reimbursements will be made within one month to the producer once the practice is installed and check out by the technician either in person or by video or photo documentation. Advance payment will be made by request and on a case-by-case basis.

For questions please contact:

Nick Machinski - *MAEAP Technician* - nicholas.machinski@washtenawcd.org
, [734.302.8711](tel:734.302.8711)

Erez Brandvain - *Conservation Technician* - erez@washtenawcd.org, [734.302.8714](tel:734.302.8714)