State Technical Committee (STTC) Meeting

April 22, 2026, 9:30 a.m.-12 noon
1606 Santa Rosa Road
Richmond, VA 23238

9:30 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Dr. Edwin Martínez Martínez, *State Conservationist*
9:45	Farm Bill Programs Updates	Marian Jordan, *ASTC-Programs*
9:55	Ecological Sciences Updates	Clarimer Hernández Vargas, *State Resource Conservationist*
10:05	Conservation Partnership Updates	John Womack, *ASTC-Field Operations*
10:15	Engineering and Emergency Watershed Program Updates	Chris Hamilton, *State Conservation Engineer*
10:25	Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) Project: Soil Health in Vineyards	Dr. Ryan Stewart, *Project Manager, Virginia Tech*
10:35	Farm Service Agency Updates	H.L. Kellam, Jr., *Farm Program Chief, FSA*
10:45	Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (VASWCD) Updates	Dr. Kendall Elaine Tyree, *Executive Director, VASWCD*
10:55	Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) Updates	Isaac Joseph, *Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)*
11:05	Wellness Break	ALL
11:15	Advancing Markets for Producers (AMP): Alliance to Advance Climate Smart Agriculture	Dr. Thomas L. Thompson, *et al*, *Associate Dean, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, Virginia Tech*
11:30	Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC)	Katie Lambiasi, *Natural Resource Administrative Specialist, Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC)*
11:45	Questions and Answer Session	ALL
11:55	Closing Remarks	Dr. Edwin Martínez Martínez, *State Conservationist*
12:00 p.m.	Adjourn	

Next Planned Meeting – [October 2026]

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

State Technical Committee Meeting
Sign-in Sheet

April 22nd, 2026, 9:30am – 12:00pm
USDA-NRCS State Office, 1606 Santa Rosa, Richond, VA 23229

Name	Organization	Email	Signature
Tom Thompson	Virginia Tech	hthomps@vt.edu	
Trey Davis	VA Agribusiness Council	trey@va-agribusiness.org	
J.B. Daniel	NRCS	j.b.daniel@usda.gov	
Michael Plessner	Virginia Cooperative Extension	plessner@vt.edu	
Tammy Haller	VSU SFOP	Thaller@vsu.edu	Tammy Haller
Alston Horn	CBF	ahorn@CBF.org	
Jared West	FDC Enterprises	jared@fdcenterprises.com	
Mary Skelton Bryant	VT, Virginia Soil Health Coalition	mskelton2@vt.edu	
Marilyn Knight	USFWS	marilyn_knight@fws.gov	Marilyn Knight
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Mary Bennett	DOF	mary.bennett@dof.virginia.gov	
Barbara Gavin	DU	bgavin@ducks.org	
Kendall Tyree	VASWCD	kendall.tyree@vaswcd.org	
Angela Davis	DCR	angela.davis@dcr.virginia.gov	
Joe Weber	DCR	joseph.weber@dcr.virginia.gov	

Name	Organization	Email	Signature
Katie Lambiasi	Intertribal Agriculture Council	caitline@indianag.org	
Ryan Stewart	VT	rds@vt.edu	
Katelyn Jordan	Virginia Farm Bureau	katelyn.jordan@vafb.com	
DEAN A. SHIELDS	USDA-NRCS-SPSD	dean.shields@usda	
Jordan Kim	USDA-NRCS - SPSD	jordan.kim@usda.gov	
JAMES MARTIN	VA DCR DSWC	JAMES.E.MARTIN@DCR.VIRGINIA.GO	
John Womack	NRCS	john.womack@usda.gov	
Chris Hamilton	NRCS	chris.s.hamilton@usda.gov	
Lara Johnson	VDOF	lara.johnson@dof.virginia.gov	

WELCOMING AND OPENING REMARKS

DR. EDWIN MARTINEZ MARTINEZ
STATE CONSERVATIONIST
NRCS VIRGINIA

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FORWARD. TOGETHER.

Virginia State Conservationist Highlights

Dr. Edwin Martínez Martínez, Virginia State Conservationist

State Technical Committee Meeting: FY26

April 22, 2026

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Virginia State Technical Committee

The **NRCS State Technical Committee** serves as an advisory body to the Natural Resource s Conservation Service (NRCS) and other USDA agencies. Its primary role is to provide reco mmendations on the implementation of conservation provisions under the Farm Bill, focu sing on natural resource conservation activities and programs.

Numbers of **new members added**, per year:

2022: 15 new members
2023: 17 new members
2024: 22 new members
2025: ~10 new members

20% increase since 2020

USDA NRCS Chief's Priorities, 2026

1. Preserve and Protect Agricultural Land:

Goal: Reduce the loss of productive farmland and safeguard the long-term viability of America's agricultural landscapes.

2. Modernize NRCS Infrastructure and Technology

Goal: Transform NRCS into a digitally agile agency that empowers staff and farmers through modern tools and systems.

3. Recenter Field Engagement and Technical Assistance

Goal: Re-establish NRCS's presence in the field to deliver hands-on, personalized support to farmers.

4. Strengthen Partnerships by Streamlining Processes and Accountability

Goal: Leverage partnerships as force multipliers while reducing internal friction to accelerate conservation outcomes.

5. Shift to Outcome-Based Conservation and Farmer Empowerment

Goal: Measure success through outcomes and empower farmers with data, recognition, and market access.

NRCS Conservation Practice Standards Producer Roundtables:

Conservation Practice Standards are going to be reviewed nationwide via landowner roundtables.

Virginia's first batch of reviews takes place on April 23rd in Southwest Virginia where we will meet with 10-15 producers to discuss the following standards:

- 512 – Pasture and Hay Planting
- 642 – Water Well
- 511 – Forage Harvest Management
- 574 – Spring Development
- 351 – Well Decommissioning

FY26 Local Working Group Meetings

Local Work Groups (LWGs) are essential components of the NRCS, facilitating community-driven conservation efforts by gathering input from local stakeholders to address natural resource concerns.

This critical task will take place from March until July to collect local resource concerns data from each county working in collaboration with SWCDs.

Their primary functions include:

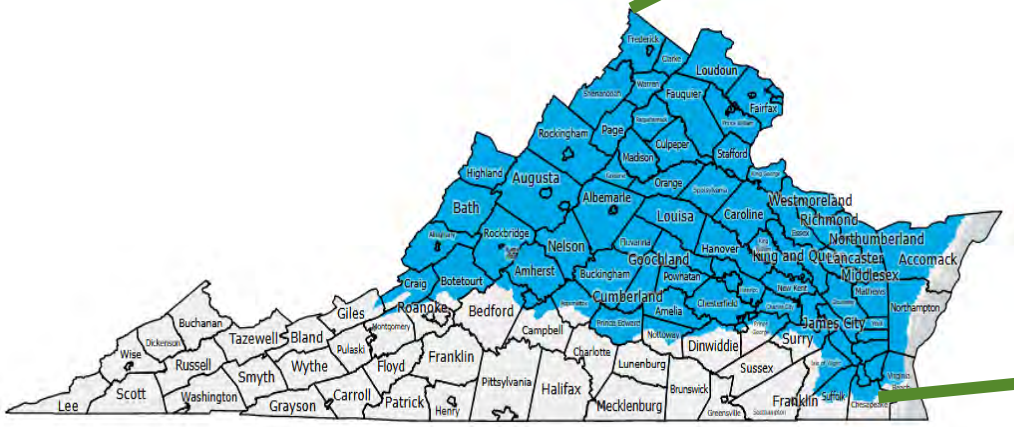
- Identifying Resource Concerns
- Developing Recommendations
- Facilitating Community Engagement

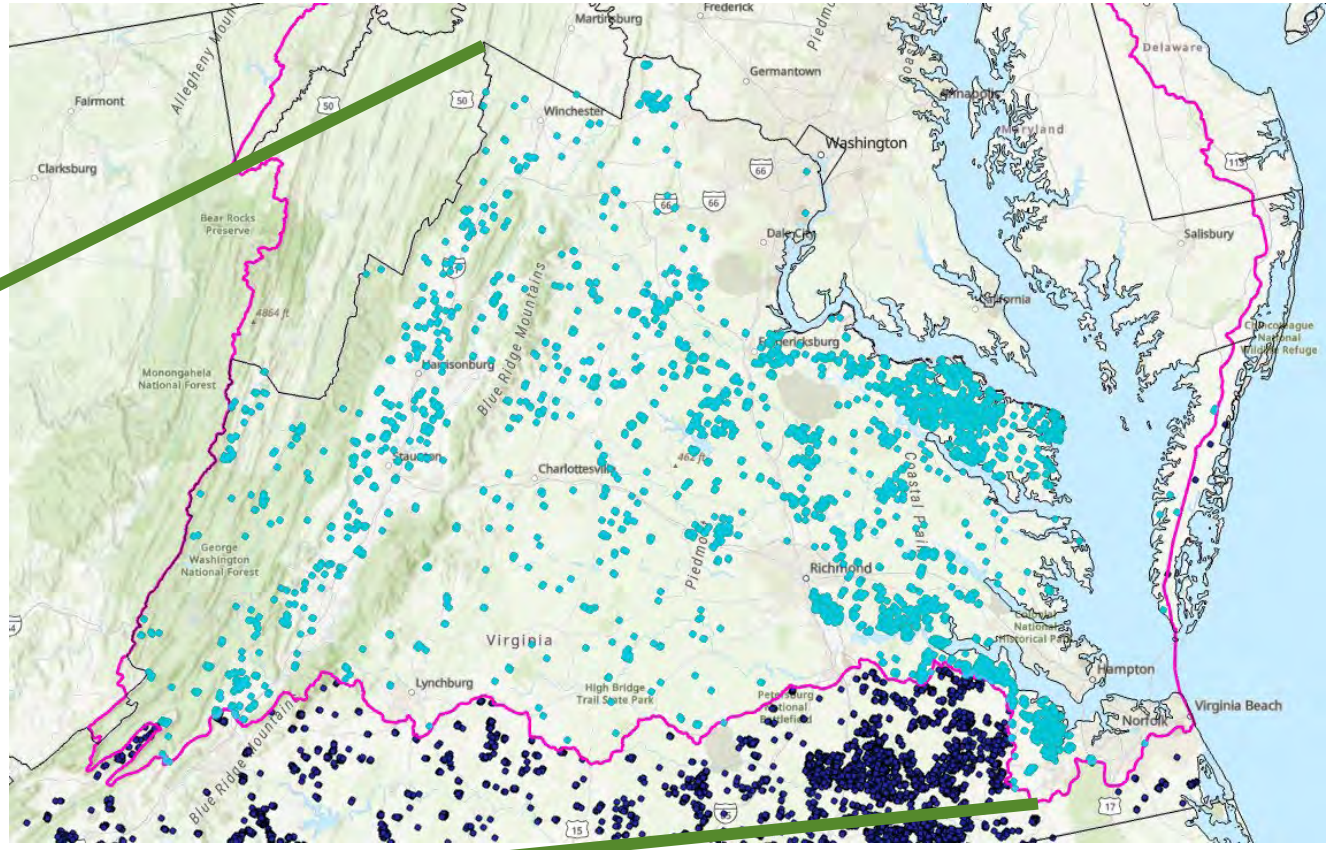
Virginia Chesapeake Bay FY25 Efforts

In fiscal year 2025, NRCS VA contracted conservation practices on **57,000 acres** through **396 producer contracts totaling $25.3M**.

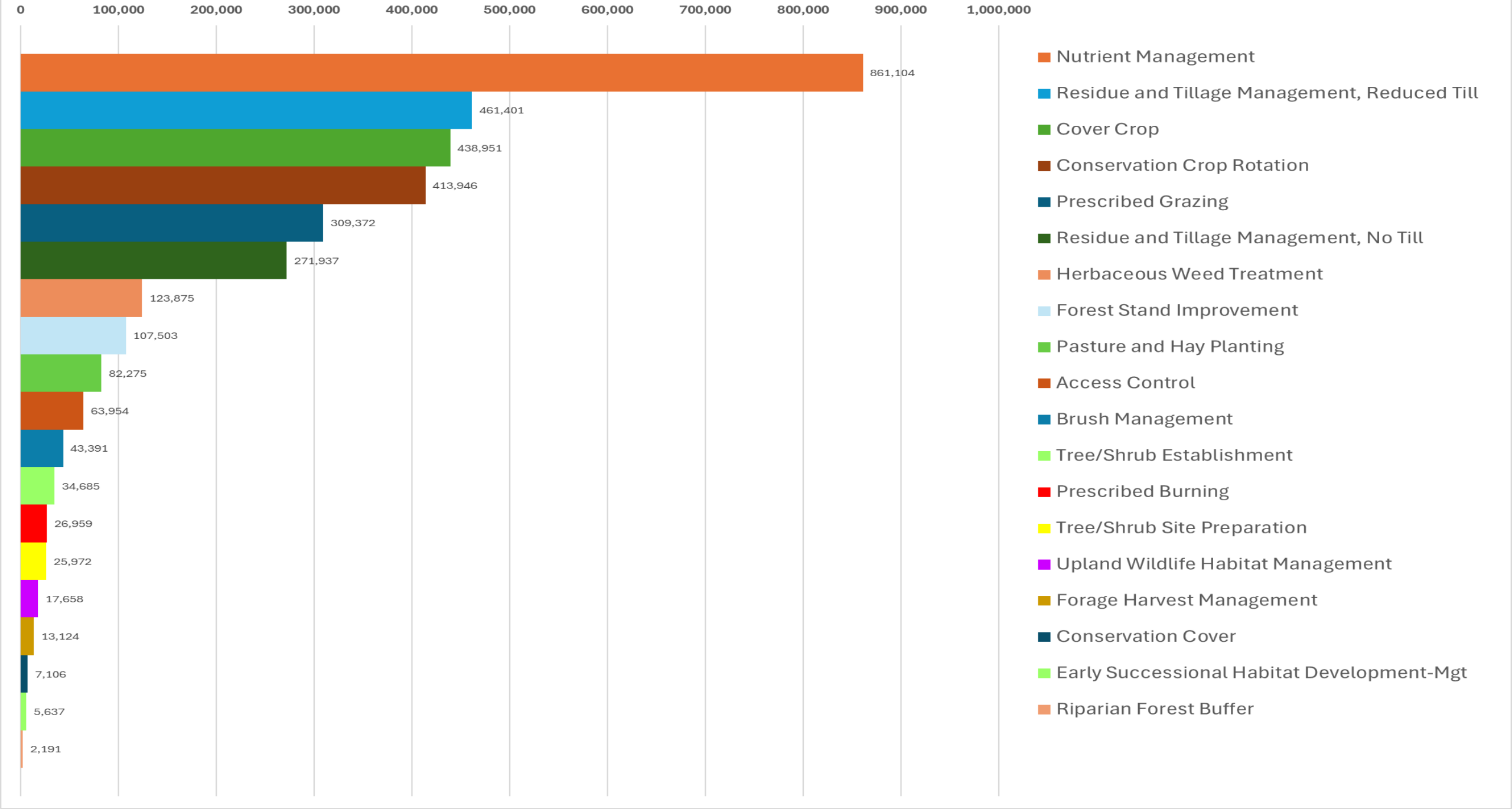
Top Conservation Practices in the Bay

- Nutrient Management
- Conservation Crop Rotation
- Fence
- Brush Management
- Forest Stand Improvement
- Herbaceous Weed Treatment
- Brush Management
- Residue and Tillage Management





Virginia Practices by Applied Acres, 2014 - 2024



Questions?

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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FARM BILL PROGRAMS UPDATES

MARIAN JORDAN
ASTC-PROGRAMS
NRCS VIRGINIA

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

FY25 Overall Program Summary

Obligated:

18 RCPP contracts totaling over $1million
2 ACEP contracts $3.19 million
528 EQIP contracts $29.5 million
276 CSP contracts $24.9 million

Total obligated funds: $58,655,533

Applications:

Total FY25 applications received across all programs: 2,416
Total FY25 applications funded across all programs: 824

1,484 EQIP applications received
831 CSP
86 RCPP
15 ACEP

FY26 Program Overview

Allocation

- EQIP- $30,676,000
- CSP- $17,722,000
- ALE- $3,960,000
- WRE- $1,000,000

+
EQIP: $2.2million
CSP: $1.7million

Applications

- EQIP- 1535
- CSP- 733
- ALE- 15
- WRE- 1
- RCPP- 37
  - RCPP-Easements- 14


REGENERATIVE
PILOT PROGRAM

Regenerative Ag Pilot Program

- **Regenerative Agriculture is a conservation management approach that emphasizes natural resources through improved soil health, water management, and natural vitality for the productivity and prosperity of American agriculture and communities**
- Regenerative Agriculture restores America's natural strength—soil, water, and natural vitality—by empowering producers with simple, outcome-based tools.
- USDA is committing $700 million in EQIP and CSP, plus technical assistance, to launch a national, farmer-first regenerative agriculture pilot.
- The pilot will leverage existing NRCS programs in EQIP and CSP, delivering regenerative agriculture through programs our farmers know and trust.
- This pilot replaces fragmented, practice-by-practice conservation with one unified process that evaluates the whole farm and every resource concern.
- Producers will benefit from a single application, reducing red tape and making conservation easier to access.

Regenerative Ag Pilot Program

- Whole Farm Assessment
  - All applicable resource concerns will be evaluated
- Primary Practices
- Soil Health Testing
- Minimum 5-year contract

- 25% of NRCS VA Allocation

Primary Regenerative Management Practices	
328	Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
330	Contour Farming (330)
331	Contour Orchard and Other Perennial Crop (331)
340	Cover Crop (340)
554	Drainage Water Management (554)
511	Forage Harvest Management (511)
666	Forest Stand Improvement (666)
449	Irrigation Water Management (449)
484	Mulching (484)
590	Nutrient Management (590)
595	Pest Management Conservation System (595)
528	Prescribed Grazing (528)
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (329)
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced (345)
585	Stripcropping (585)

Current Obligations

- EQIP
  - $2.3million; 67 contracts; 3300 acres
- CSP
  - $217,000; 3 contracts; 633 acres

ECOLOGICAL SCIENCE UPDATES

CLARIMER HERNANDEZ VARGAS
STATE RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST
&
J.B. DANIEL
CONSERVATION GRAZING SPECIALIST
NRCS VIRGINIA

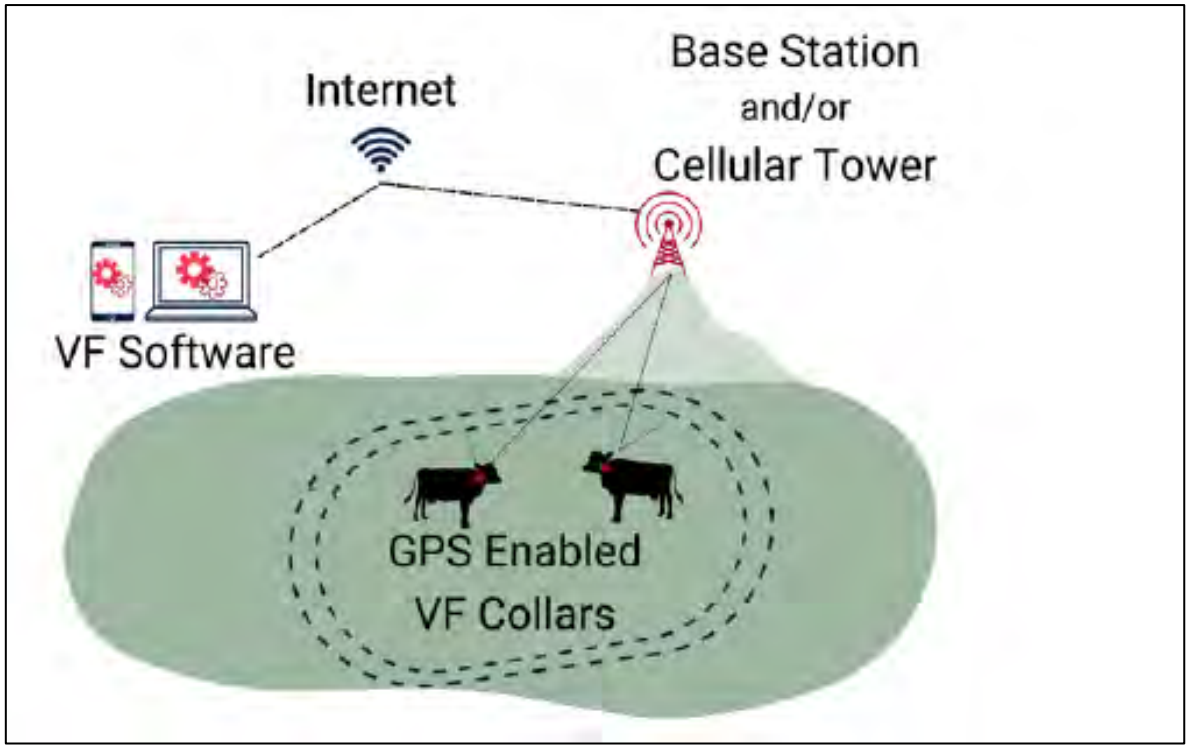
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Ecological Science Updates: Virtual Fence Overview

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

Virtual Fence System Components

- Three main components:
  - Global positioning satellite (GPS)
  - Collars on the animals
  - A computer or other device
- For this to work areas need to have good connectivity between the collars, the computer device, typically through a cellular network or LAN



Digital Fence Transmits to GPS Collars

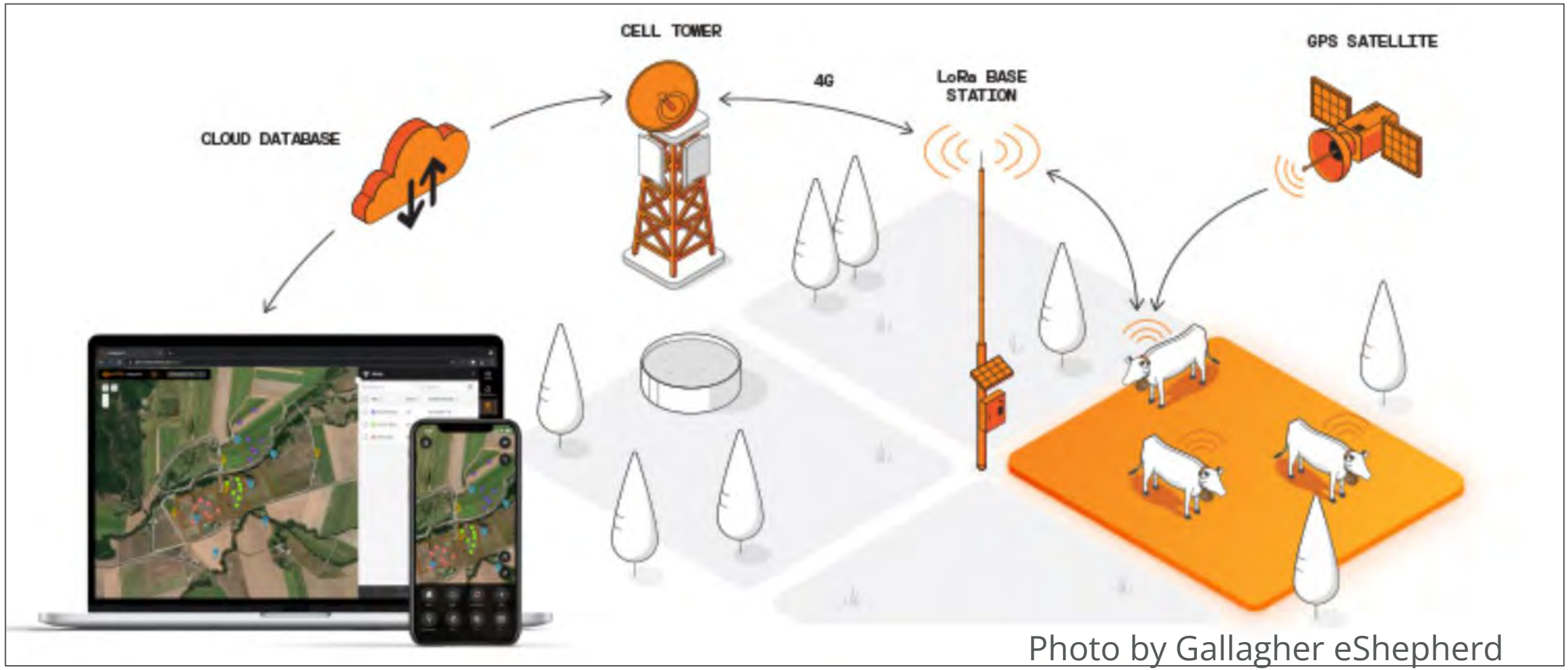
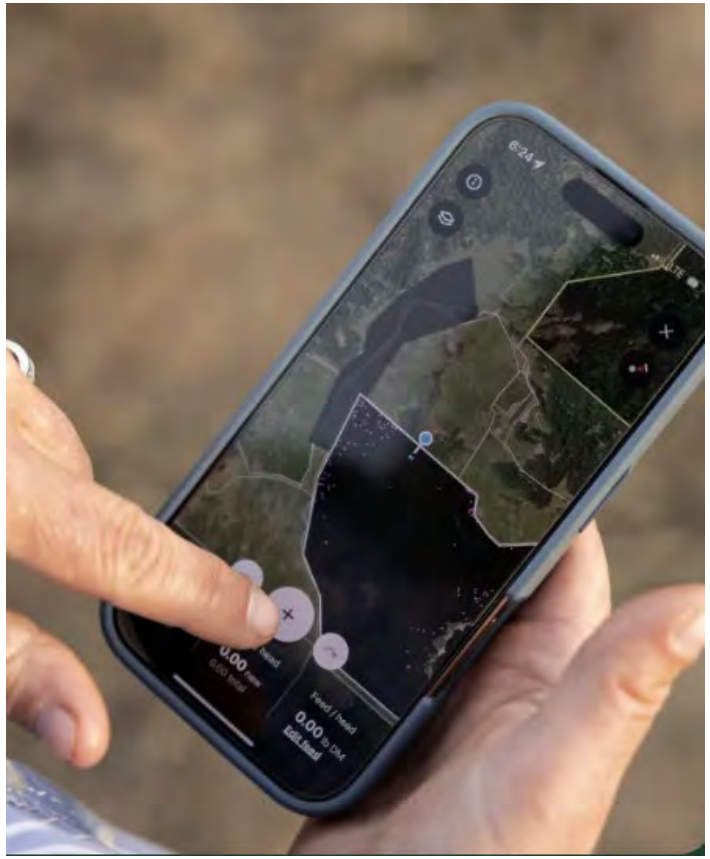
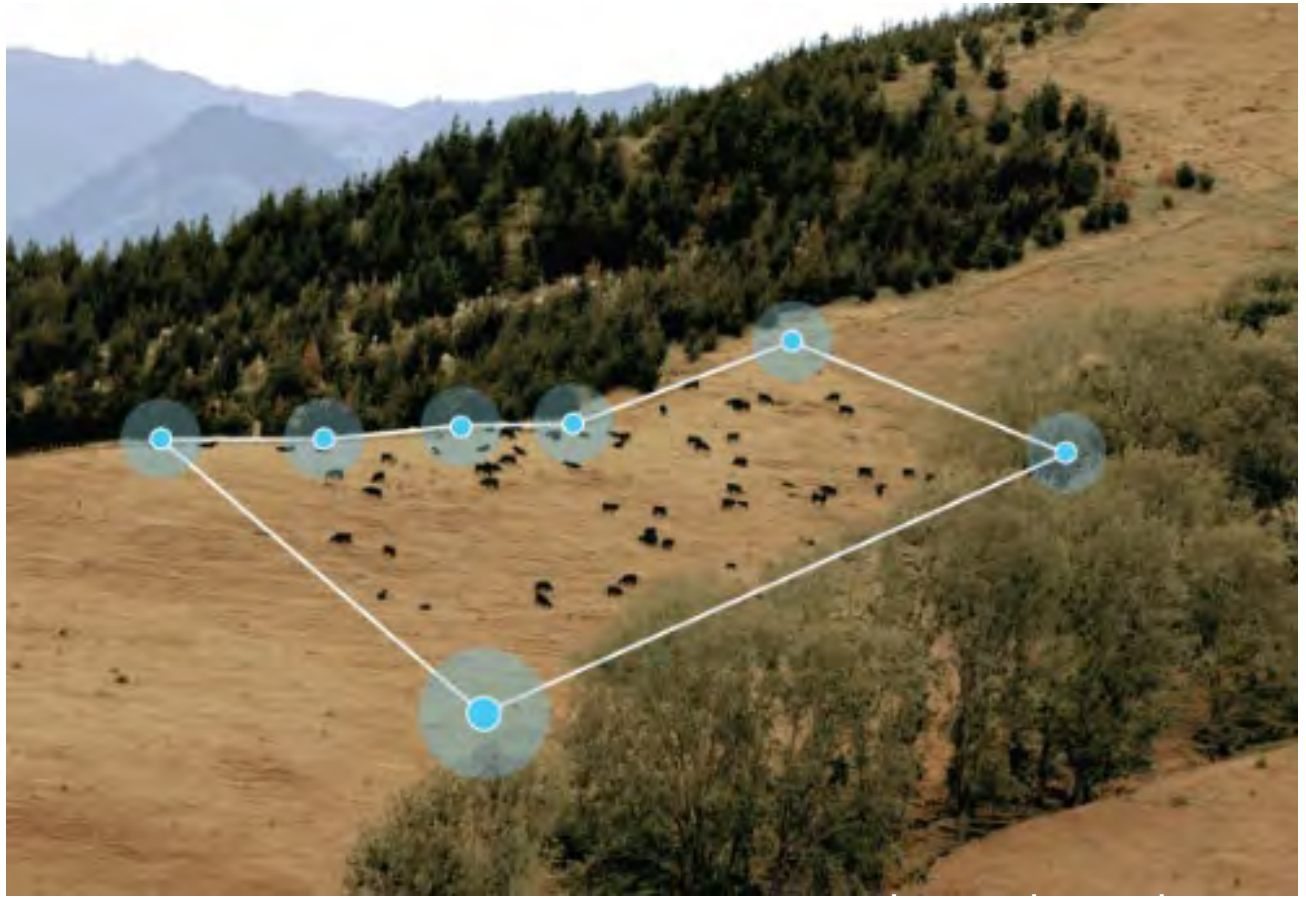


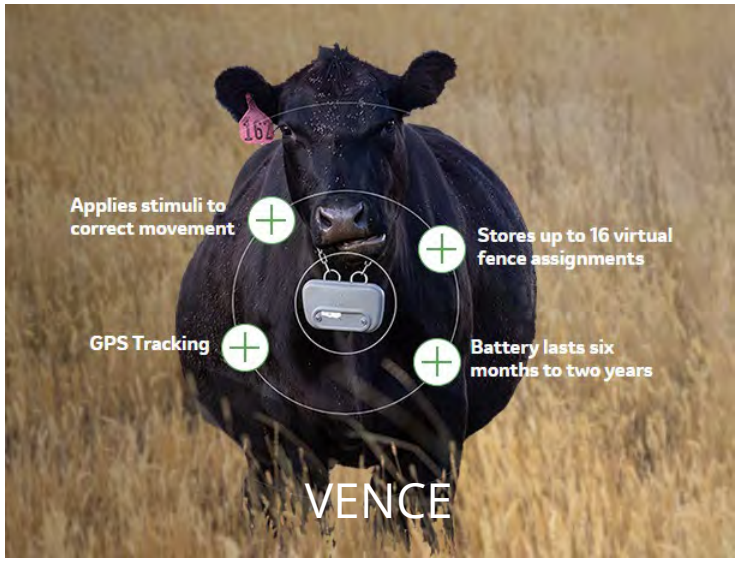
Photo by Gallagher eShepherd

Draw New Paddocks from Phone





Collar Types by Vendor



Virtual Fence in a Conservation System

- Virtual fencing is meant to be used…
  - To address resource concerns
  - As a management tool
  - Inside the grazing perimeter


Photo by Gallagher eShepherd

To Address Resource Concerns

- Plant pest pressure
  - Lack of grazing management has resulted in low plant vigor and encroachment of undesirable species
- Feed and forage balance
  - Stocking rate and excessive grazing has resulted in severe impact and forage imbalance

Virtual Fence as a Management Tool

- To improve grazing management
  - Transition from no or low grazing management to a high level of grazing management
  - The technology has the potential to facilitate ease of management

Inside the Grazing Perimeter

- It does not take the place of boundary fence
- It does not provide 100% containment all the time

Most Important

- Intent of Virtual Fencing is to improve the management of grazing animals to address existing resource concerns on existing grazing lands.
- Without the resource concern and the producers' commitment to grazing management, then VF is not an option through NRCS

Potential Challenges of Virtual Fencing

- There is a significant upfront costs and annual subscription fees that may not be economically feasible for many farm operations
  - Base station costs range from $5,000 - $10,000 for setup
  - Collars cost between $250 and $350 per animal
  - Annual user fees or subscriptions for collars range from $18 - $45 per animal
  - All estimates depend on vendor and size of herd
- This is a very high cost for a cool technology, that is not economically practical for most farms in VA.

USDA-NRCS does not endorse any specific product or company. All references to vendors or products are for informational purposes only.

Questions

CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

JOHN WOMACK
ASTC-FIELD OPERATIONS
NRCS VIRGINIA

Partnership Grants & Agreements

Cooperative
$8.3 million invested with 12 partners

Contribution
$700,000 invested with 1 partner

Grants
$1.2 million invested with 3 partners

VSU College of Agriculture

Ducks Unlimited

Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture

Virginia Association of SWCD Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Virginia Department of Forestry

Virginia DWR

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences School of Plant and Environmental Sciences Virginia Tech

Intertribal Agriculture Council

American Farmland Trust

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

American Bird Conservancy

Agreement Updates

Chief's priority - to modernize our systems and strengthen our partnership through streamlined processes with clear accountability.

NRCS is launching a full review of all active partner emphasizing transparency, oversight, and consistency across the agency's agreement portfolio. During the review period, there will be a temporary pause of agreement actions.

Agreement Updates

Business Relationships and Interagency Documentation Governance Ecosystem (BRIDGE) established updated internal process for agency review.

Assistant Chiefs will be the signing official for most agreement obligation actions.

Working Effective with American Indians (WEWAI)

- *NRCS VA is working with Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) to plan and conduct WEWAI course for NRCS staff.*
- *Tentatively scheduled for the week of August 17, 2026*
- *Provides spiritual, cultural, and intellectual awareness of Virgina tribes in order for NRCS to effectively work, interact, and provide technical assistance to the tribes in the use and care of our natural resources.*

ENGINEERING & EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROGRAM UPDATES

CHRIS HAMILTON STATE
CONSERVATION ENGINEER
NRCS VIRGINIA

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program Work in Virginia

- Hurricane Helene
- February 2025 Winter Storms

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
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EWP Program Overview

- **Provides Congressional authorized funds to communities to address threats to life or property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural disasters that create a sudden watershed impairment.**

- **Requires:**
  - **Federal, state, or local disaster declaration**
  - **Sponsor Request for Assistance**

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Approves Emergency Declaration for Virginia

Release Date: September 29, 2024

WASHINGTON -- FEMA announced today that federal disaster assistance is available to the Commonwealth of Virginia to supplement response efforts due to emergency conditions resulting from Post-tropical Cyclone Helene beginning Sept. 25 and continuing.

The President's action authorizes FEMA to coordinate all disaster relief efforts to alleviate the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population and to provide appropriate assistance to save lives, to protect property, public health and safety and to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe.

President Donald J. Trump Approves Major Disaster Declaration for Virginia

Release Date: April 9, 2025

WASHINGTON -- FEMA announced that federal disaster assistance has been made available to the Commonwealth of Virginia to supplement recovery efforts in the areas affected by severe winter storms and flooding from Feb. 10-18, 2025.

Public Assistance federal funding is available to the state, tribal and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities in Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Craig, Dickenson, Floyd, Franklin, Grayson, Lee, Pulaski, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington and Wise counties and the independent city of Bristol.

EWP Program Overview

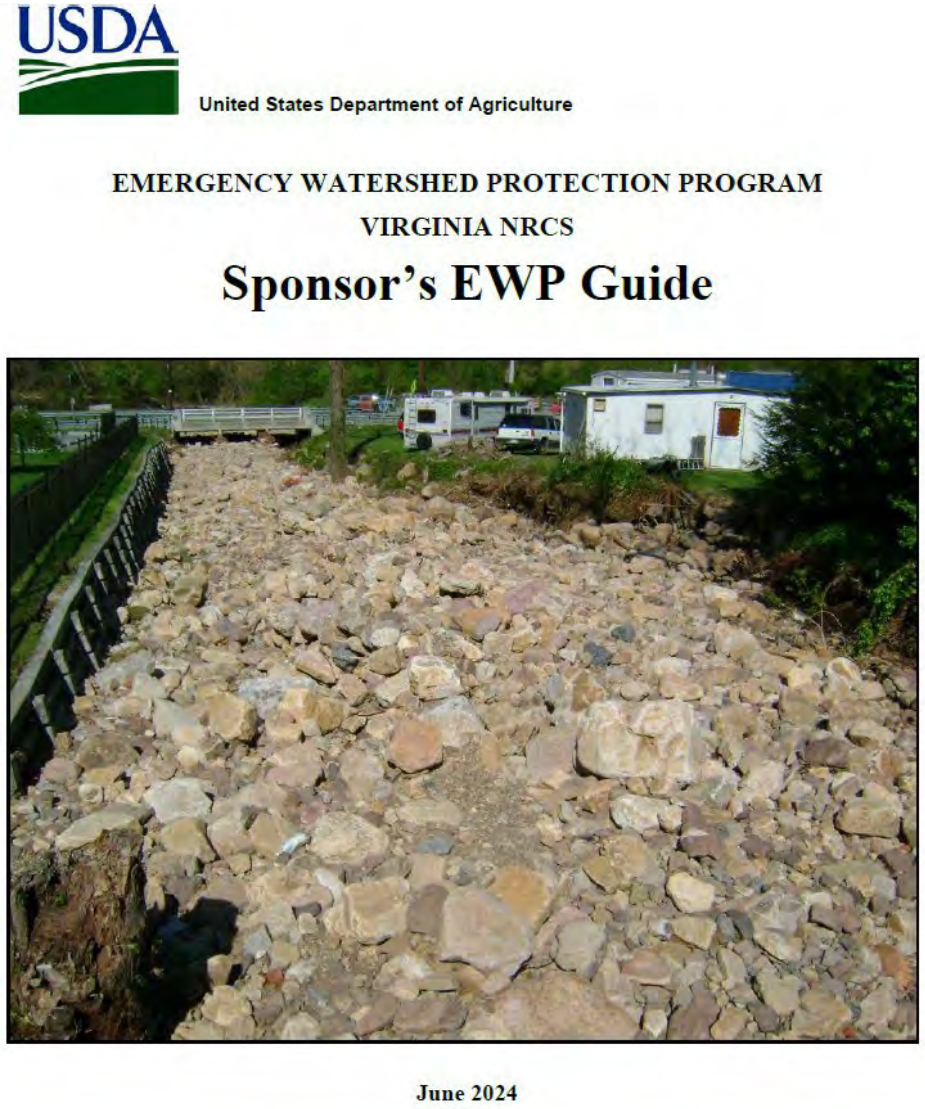
All Disaster Recovery work must:

- **Reduce threat to life and property.**
- **Provide protection from flooding or soil erosion.**
- **Be economically, environmentally, and socially defensible.**
- **Be technically sound.**

EWP Program Overview

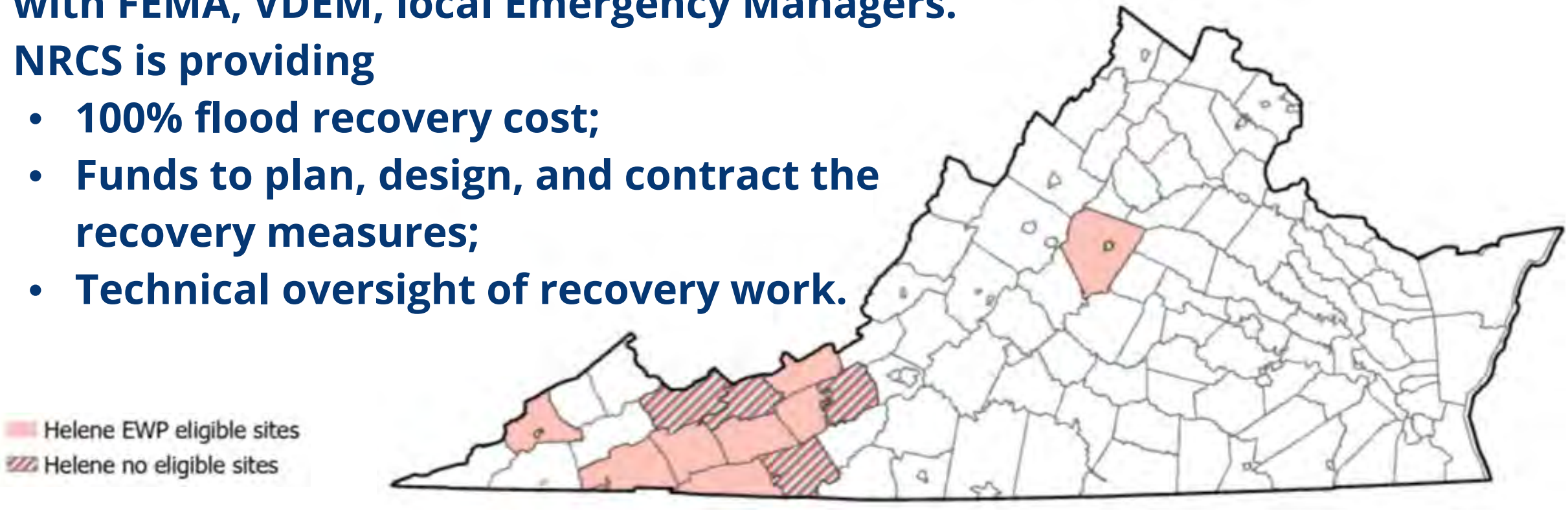
Sponsor Responsibilities:

- Obtain land rights.
- Secure necessary permits.
- Furnish local cost-share.
- Administer Engineering Services and Construction Contracts.
- Conduct O&M on completed projects.

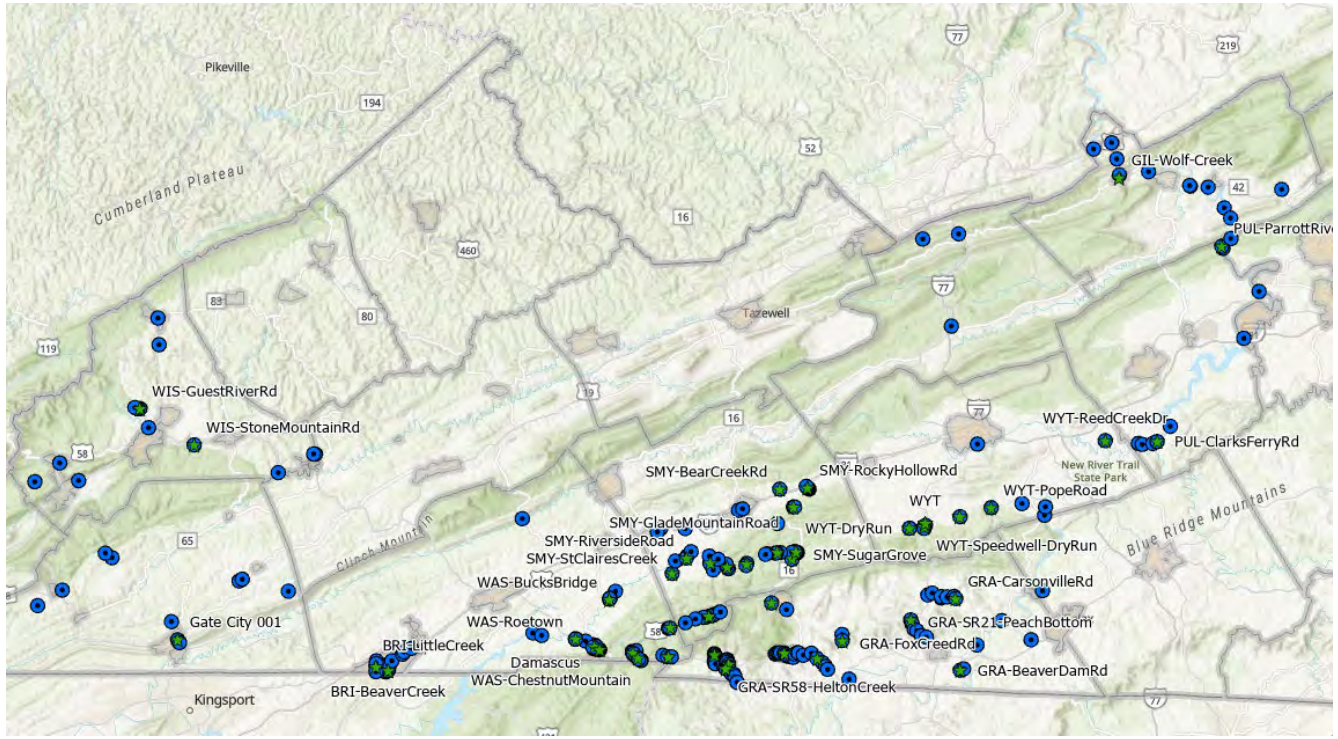


Hurricane Helene

- **Presidential Disaster Declaration.**
- **Over 230 damage site assessed in 16 localities with FEMA, VDEM, local Emergency Managers.**
- **NRCS is providing**
  - **100% flood recovery cost;**
  - **Funds to plan, design, and contract the recovery measures;**
  - **Technical oversight of recovery work.**



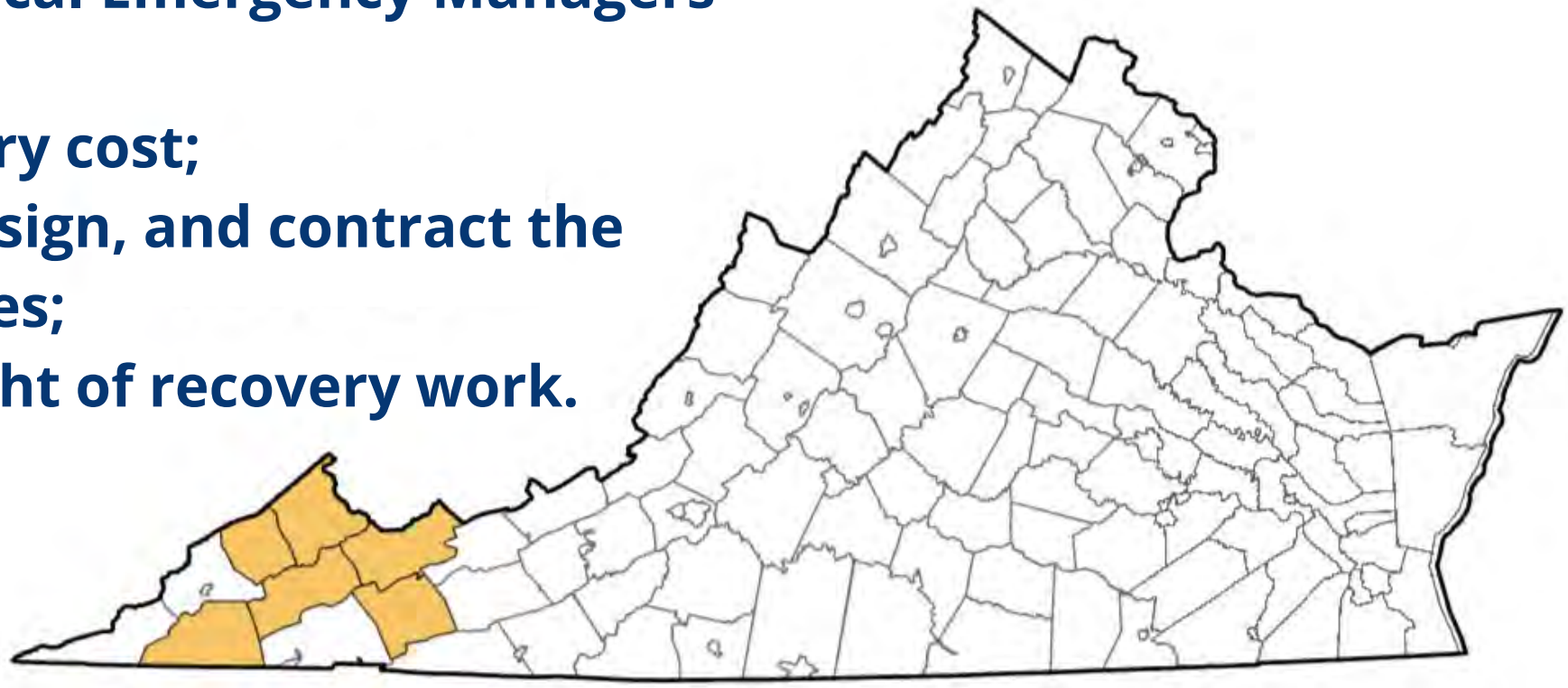
Hurricane Helene



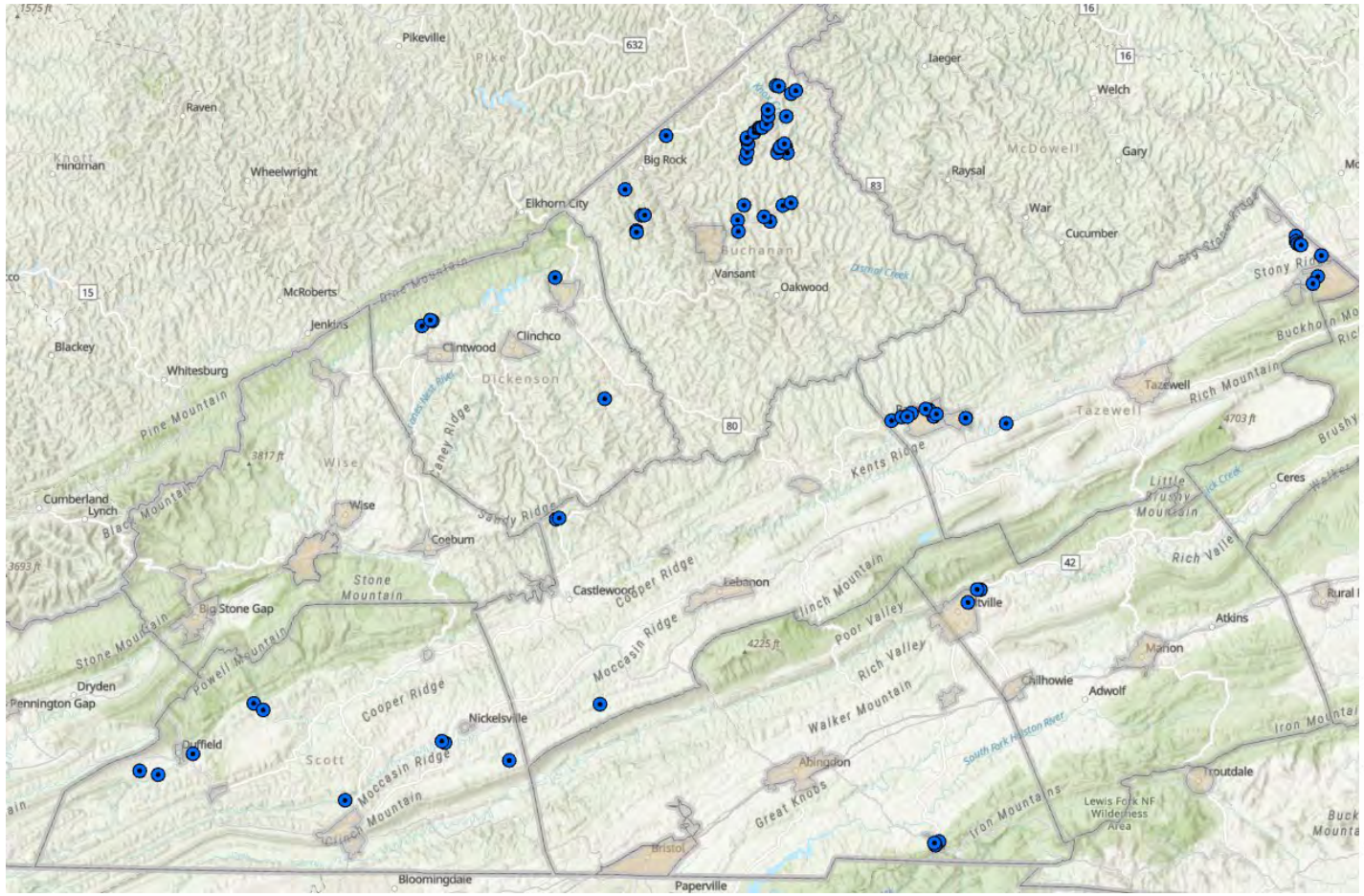
Sponsor	Eligible Sites	Awarded Funds
Smyth County	33	$8,046,511
Grayson County	36	$5,120,577
Washington County	14	$4,670,136
Town of Damascus	10	$2,694,047
Wythe County	9	$1,387,281
Wise County	3	$147,571
City of Bristol	4	$59,102
Giles County	1	$19,500
Albemarle County	7	$492,223
Town of Gate City	1	$95,367
TOTAL	**117**	**$22,732,315**

February 2025 Winter Storms

- Presidential Declaration
- Over 80 damage site assessed in 8 localities with FEMA, VDEM, local Emergency Managers
- NRCS is providing
  - 75% flood recovery cost;
  - Funds to plan, design, and contract the recovery measures;
  - Technical oversight of recovery work.



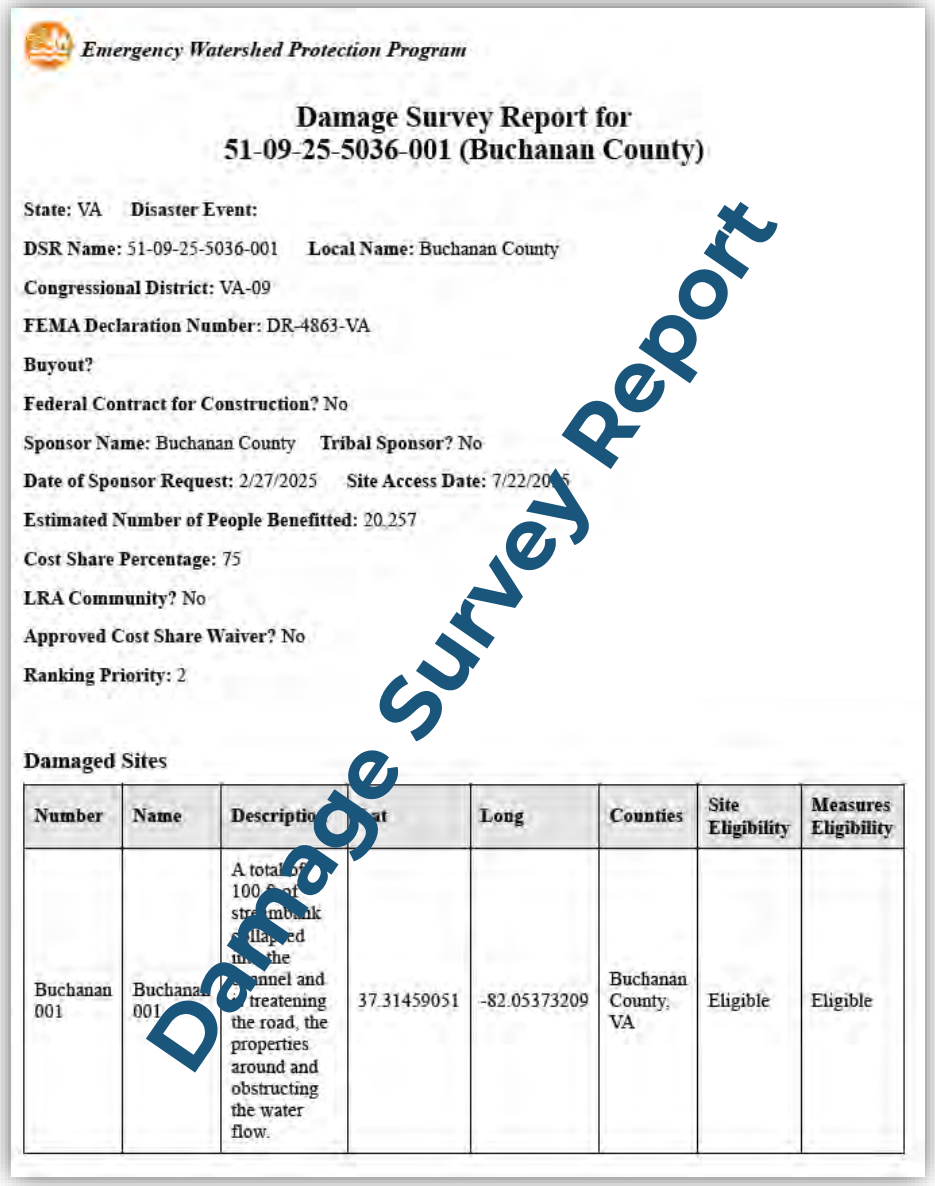
February 2025 Winter Storms



Sponsor	Eligible Sites	Awarded Funds
Buchanan County	35	$4,626,440
Buchanan County (Buyout)	2	$1,499,990
Dickenson County	5	$283,415
Russell County	2	$619,570
Tazewell County	12	$89,700
Town of Richlands	7	$636,955
Scott County	5	$1,087,310
Smyth County	2	$303,290
TOTAL	**70**	**$9,146,670**

EWP Program Eligibility

- Rapid Damage Surveys with Locality, FEMA, VDEM, NRCS
  - Threat to life and property?
  - Disaster Recovery Measures needed?
- Environmental Defensibility
  - Waters, T&E, Cultural Resources, etc.
- Economic Defensibility
  - Cost of Disaster Recovery Measures
  - Benefits of Avoiding Future Damages



Emergency Watershed Protection Program

Damage Survey Report for 51-09-25-5036-001 (Buchanan County)

State: VA **Disaster Event:**

DSR Name: 51-09-25-5036-001 **Local Name:** Buchanan County

Congressional District: VA-09

FEMA Declaration Number: DR-4863-VA

Buyout?

Federal Contract for Construction? No

Sponsor Name: Buchanan County **Tribal Sponsor?** No

Date of Sponsor Request: 2/27/2025 **Site Access Date:** 7/22/20[illegible]5

Estimated Number of People Benefitted: 20,257

Cost Share Percentage: 75

LRA Community? No

Approved Cost Share Waiver? No

Ranking Priority: 2

Damaged Sites

Number	Name	Description	Lat	Long	Counties	Site Eligibility	Measures Eligibility
Buchanan 001	Buchanan 001	A total of 100 feet of stream bank collapsed into the channel and threatening the road, the properties around and obstructing the water flow.	37.31459051	-82.05373209	Buchanan County, VA	Eligible	Eligible

Damage Survey Report

Site Eligibility

EWP can be used to address

- Debris-clogged waterways;
- Unstable streambanks;
- Severe erosion;
- Wind-borne debris removal.

EWP cannot be used to address

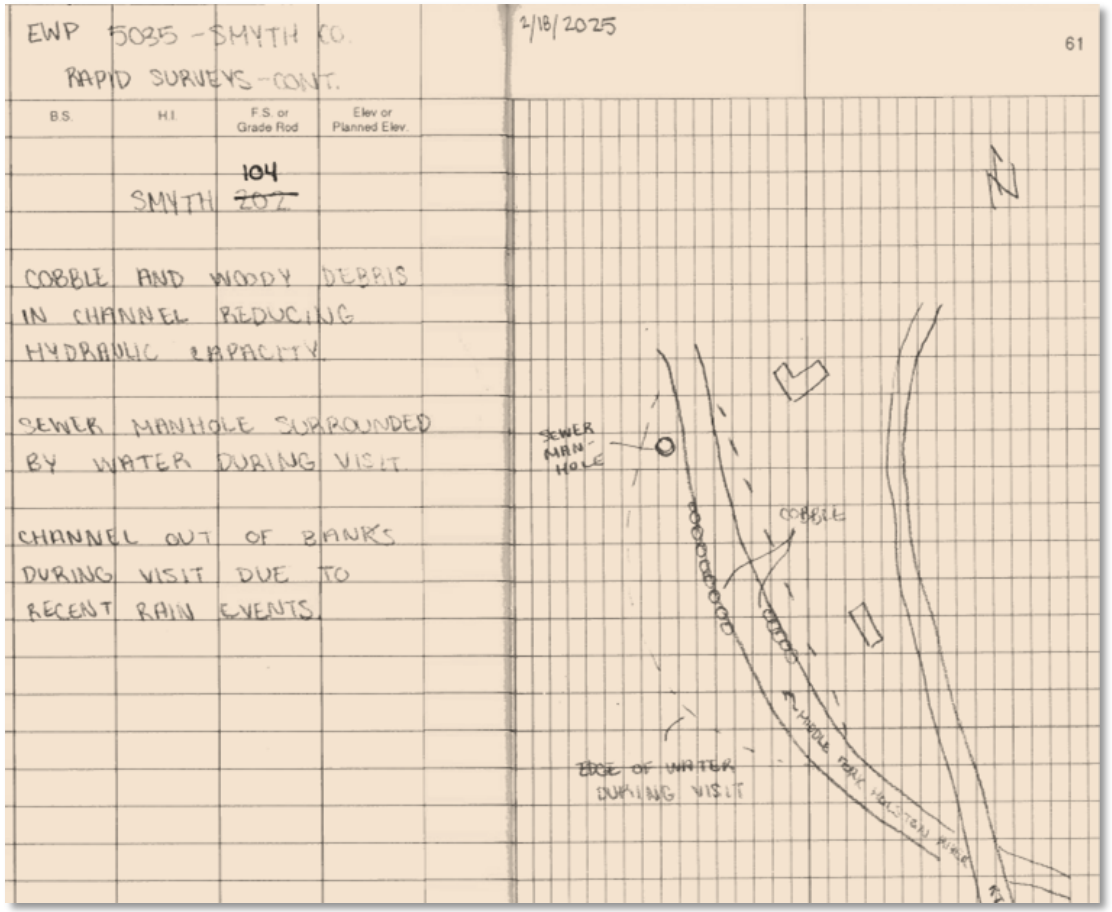
- Existing O&M;
- Same issue 3 times within 10 yrs;
- Repair, rebuild, or maintain roads, bridges, utilities, etc.;
- Coastal erosion
- Repair other federal agencies work

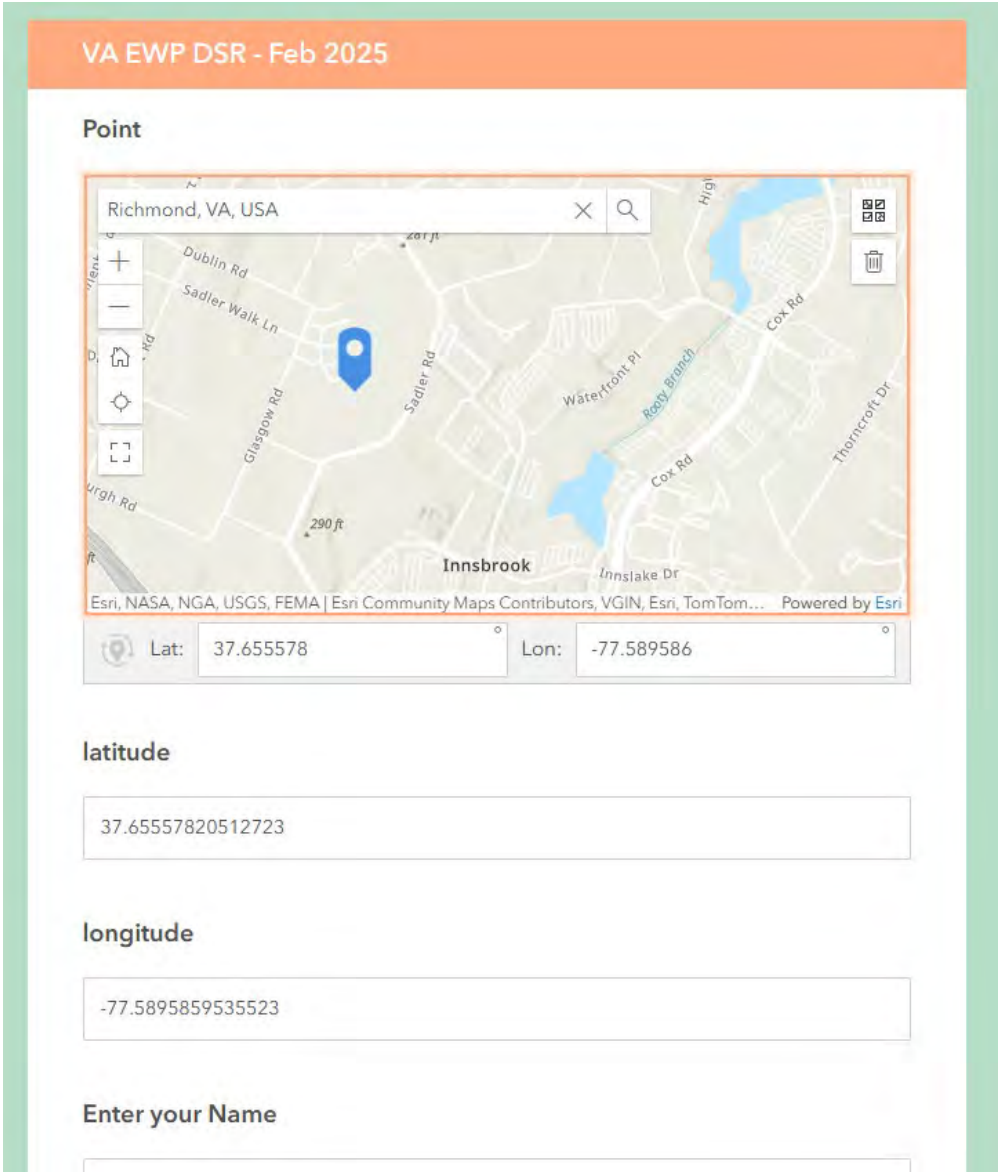
Rapid Damage Surveys

- Threat to life and property?
- Eligible for FEMA, EWP program funds?
- Disaster Recovery Measures needed?

Rapid Damage Surveys

- Document and share findings





Typical Damages and Protection Measures

Channel Stabilization and Erosion Prevention

Typical Damages and Protection Measures

Channel Stabilization and Erosion Prevention

Summary

Application Phase

Implementation Phase

- Sponsor submits formal request for NRCS assistance
- NRCS completes a Damage Survey Report (DSR) (EWPP Tool)
- NHQ sends available funds to NRCS State Office
- Sponsor and NRCS enter into a formal agreement
- Emergency work is performed

Virginia NRCS Source Water Protection Plan & FY2026 Metrics

Prepared for: Virginia NRCS
Prepared by: Stacey Bradshaw, Water Resources Planning Specialist
Date: January 23, 2026

Executive Summary

Virginia NRCS has significantly advanced its Source Water Protection Areas (SWPA) initiative to safeguard drinking water sources across the state. Since its inception in FY2020, the program has grown to encompass **240 prioritized watersheds (HUCs)**, covering **20% of eligible land area** through a data-driven, partner-supported approach.

Key Achievements to Date:

- **Investment:** Over **$31.8 million** obligated from 2020 for conservation practices.
- **Scale: 45,500+ acres** treated and **424 contracts** implemented statewide.
- **Coverage:** Expanded from **2 HUCs in FY2020** to **240 HUCs by FY2026**.

Introduction

Purpose: The purpose of this report is to outline the strategic implementation of the Source Water Protection (SWP) initiative within Virginia, adhering to the requirements set forth in the 2018 Farm Bill.

Scope: This report covers the program's evolution from its inception in FY2020 through the current fiscal year (FY2026), focusing on the prioritization methodology, geographic scope, and relevant program metrics for FY2026.

Background: The initiative addresses resource concerns by prioritizing watersheds where agriculture is a potential source of water degradation. A working group developed a plan considering delineated SWPAs from source water protection assessments.

Program Evolution and Scope

The program's geographic scope has expanded significantly since its launch. The methodology for identifying priority areas has been refined through a state technical sub-committee:

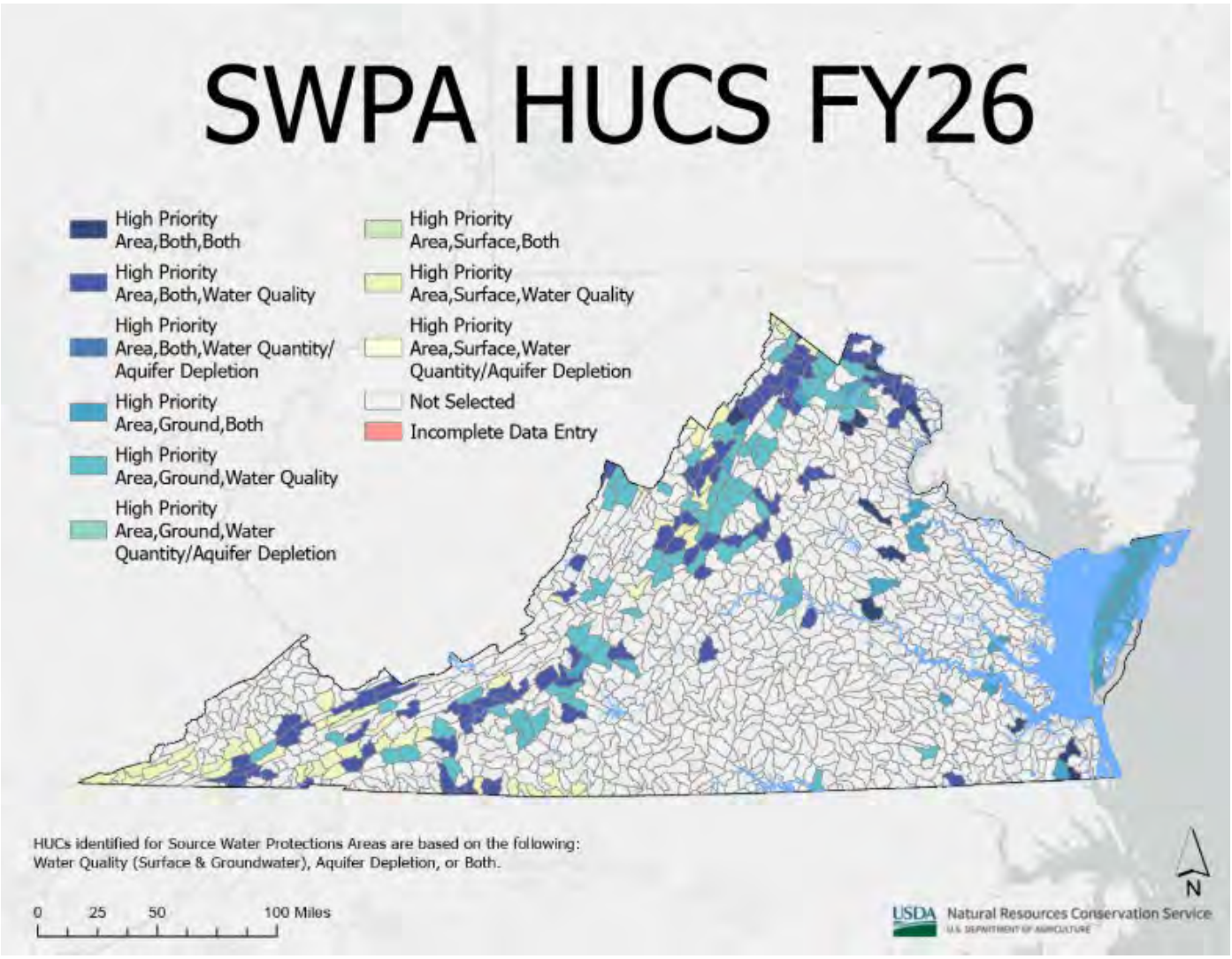
Fiscal Year	Status/Action	Number of Priority HUCs
FY2020	Initial Selection	2 HUCs
FY2021–FY2022	State Technical Sub-Committee Refinement	208 HUCS (+206)
FY2023	Additional Areas Added	228 HUCs total (+20)
FY2024	Additional Areas Added	240 HUCs total (+12)
FY2025–FY2026	Used previous year's data	240 HUCs total

The program has maintained a consistent strategy for the FY2024, FY2025, and FY2026 cycles. Future adjustments are anticipated in FY2027 following the release of a new National Bulletin, at which point the State Technical SWPA sub-committee will reconvene to re-evaluate the prioritized areas.

FY2026 Program Metrics

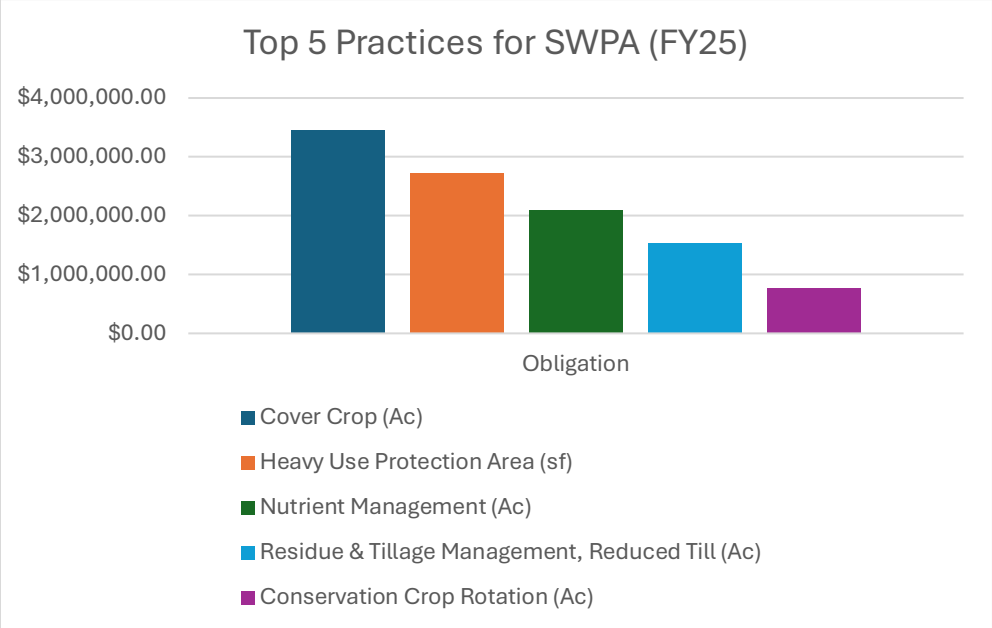
The following information details the specific operational data for the current fiscal year (FY2026).

Maps of Prioritized Areas



Financials

	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Obligated Funding for SWPA Practices	$43,210.16	$2,644.579.29	$2,919,906.42	$3,083,640.34	$10,003,698.00	$ 13,099,638.12
Acres	119	5,073	4,851.50	9,736.2	11,959.60	13,910.90
HUCs w/ applied practices	2	28	38	46	68	65
Contracts	2	47	53	80	146	96
Counties with planned practices	X	X	X	X	29	23
Targeted HUCs	21	106	208	228	240	240
% of Land Acres	2%	7%	19%	20%	20%	20%



Conservation Practices Utilized

CPS Code	CPS Name	New for FY 25
311	Ally Cropping	Yes
313	Waste Storage Facility	No
317	Composting Facility	Yes
327	Conservation Cover	No
328	Conservation Crop Rotation	No
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till	No
332	Contour Buffer Strips (acres)	Yes
336	Soil Carbon Amendment	Yes
340	Cover Crop	No
342	Critical Area Planting	No
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till	Yes
351	Well Decommissioning	No
366	Anaerobic Digestor	Yes
367	Roofs and Covers	No
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation	Yes
381	Silvopasture	Yes
382	Fence	No
386	Field Border	No
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover	No
391	Riparian Forest Buffer	No
393	Filter Strip	No
412	Grassed Waterways	Yes
420	Wildlife Habitat Planting	No
430	Irrigation Pipeline	No
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation	No
449	Irrigation Water Management	Yes
472	Access Control	No
512	Pasture and Hay Planting	Yes
516	Livestock Pipeline	No
527	Sinkhole Treatment	No
528	Prescribed Grazing	No
554	Drainage Water Management	No
558	Roof Runoff Structure	No
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	No
578	Stream Crossing	No
585	Stripcropping	Yes
590	Nutrient Management	No
603	Herbaceous Wind Barriers	Yes
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment	No
614	Watering Facility	No
632	Waste Separation Facility	Yes
642	Water Well	No

Partnerships

Over the last 6 years, in addition to Virginia NRCS staff, we have partnered with public and private entities to review priority land areas, determine the most effective conservation practices and promote the Source Water Protection areas. Partners include:

US Environmental Protection Agency
Virginia's Department of Health, Division of Drinking Water
City of Lynchburg
Groundwater Protection Council
TetraTech
US Geological Survey
Local Work Groups (SWCD, VCE, DOF, etc.)

Conclusion

To review, the Virginia NRCS Source Water Protection Areas (SWPA) program has successfully scaled to its maximum allowable coverage of **20% of eligible land area**, prioritizing **240 critical watersheds (HUCs)** through a data-driven and collaborative approach. Since FY2020, the program has invested **$31.8 million**, implemented **424 contracts**, and treated over **45,500 acres**, delivering measurable improvements in water quality and agricultural sustainability.

This progress reflects strong partnerships with federal, state, and local entities to align with the 2018 Farm Bill mandates.

Looking Ahead:

A strategic re-evaluation in FY2027 will incorporate new national guidance and emerging science to refine prioritization and expand resilience strategies. Future efforts will focus on increasing stakeholder engagement and leveraging innovative practices to protect Virginia's drinking water sources for generations to come.

The SWPA initiative remains a cornerstone of Virginia NRCS's commitment to safeguarding water resources and supporting sustainable agriculture statewide.

SOILS UPDATES

MILTON VEGA
ACTING STATE SOIL
SCIENTIST
NRCS VIRGINIA

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Soils Update

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CEMA 216

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

Summary of CEMA 216

- **CEMA 216 Overview**
  - CEMA 216 measures biological, chemical, and physical soil properties across various land uses to evaluate soil health.
- **What does it support?**
  - Regenerative Agriculture Pilot Program
- **Implementation Notes**
  - States are encountering issues where labs don't run "full suite" methods or use alternate testing methodologies

Summary of CEMA 216

Table 1. Each soil process should be measured to evaluate overall soil health. Choose a method to measure the soil indicator from each column.

Soil Process and Indicator	Soil Aggregation – Wet Aggregate Stability	Carbon Cycling – Soil Organic C (SOC)	Microbial Activity – Soil Respiration	Carbon Food Source for Microorganisms – Labile Carbon	Food Source for Organisms – Bioavailable Nitrogen
Reason for Measurement	Measure of the physical soil environment. Related to water infiltration, carbon and nutrient storage, biological activity, and reduced erosion	Related to soil structure, fertility, and provides microbes with food	Measure of how active the microbes are in the soil	Carbon food that is easily taken up by microbes	Related to protein that is readily available to microbes
Preferred Method	Wet sieving	Dry combustion	24-hour incubation/burst	Permanganate Oxidizable Carbon (POXC)	Autoclaved citrate extractable (ACE) protein content

Summary of CEMA 216

Alternate Method	Cornell Sprinkle infiltrometer or Image Analysis	SOC calculated from Soil Organic Matter measured by Loss on Ignition	96-hour incubation	Water extractable organic carbon	Water extractable organic nitrogen

Summary of CEMA 216

Table 2. Soil characteristics are used to interpret soil health indicators. Choose a method to measure the soil characteristic from each column.		
Soil Characteristic	**Soil Texture**	**Soil pH**
Preferred Method	KSSL Particle Size Distribution Analysis by pipette	1:1 water
Alternate Method	Hydrometer Method	0.01M $CaCl_2$

Summary of CEMA 216

Table 3. If additional soil biological information is desired, choose a method to measure microbial/functional diversity.

Soil Indicator	Microbial Diversity/Functional Diversity
Preferred Method	Phospholipid Fatty Acid (PLFA)
Alternative Method	Choice of three of the following soil enzymes: β-Glucosidase (Carbon Cycling) N-acetyl-β-D-glucosaminidase (Carbon and Nitrogen Cycling) Protease (Nitrogen Cycling) Acid and/or Alkaline Phosphatase (Phosphorus Cycling) Arylsulfatase (Sulfur Cycling)

PAP Approved Facilities

Name	Address	Core CEMA216	Advanced CEMA216
AgSource - Harris	Nebraska	X	
AGVISE Laboratories - Benson	Minnesotta	X	
AGVISE Laboratories - Northwood	North Dakota	X	
American Agricultural Lab - Olsen's Agricultural Lab	Nebraska	X	X
Brookside Laboratories	Ohio	X	
OSU Soil Health Lab	Oregon	X	X
Regen Ag Lab	Nebraska	X	X
SoilTest Farm Consultants	Washington	X	
Ward Laboratories	Nebraska	X	X
Waters Agricultural Laboratory - Camilla	Georgia	X	X
Waters Agricultural Laboratory - Vicksburg	Missouri	X	X

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Coastal Zone Soil Survey in VA

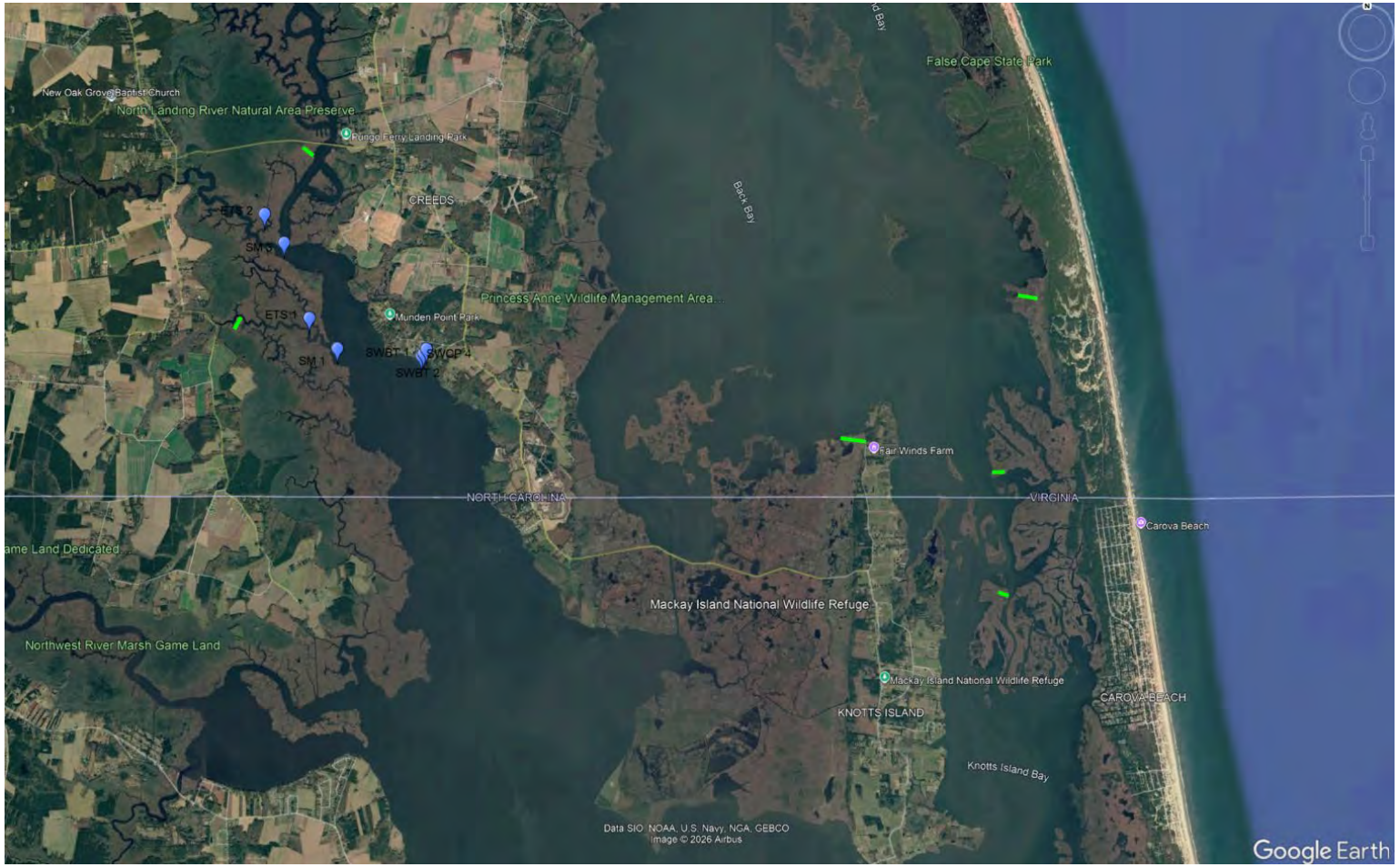
FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

Coastal Zone soil Survey

- **CZSS Overview**
  - CZSS is a seamless data of submerged and subaqueous soils that connect with the adjacent uplands
- **What does it support?**

  Fisheries, Aquaculture
- **CZSS in VA**
  - Currituck Sound/Back Bay (On going)
  - Little Wicomico River(FY2026)
  - Coan River (FY2026)

Coastal Zone soil Survey



Coastal Zone soil Survey

Coastal Zone soil Survey

CIG PROJECT: SOILS HEALTH IN VINEYARDS

DR. RYAN STEWARD
VIRGINIA TECH PROJECT MANAGER

Soil Health Indicators in Vineyards

Ryan Stewart, Catherine Thom, T. Ayden Boylan,
Angela Possinger, and Jaclyn Fiola

Soil Health in Virginia Vineyards

The Virginia wine industry generated $1.73 billion in 2019

- 26.5% increase from 2015

Soil health has gained notable attention with increased awareness of its benefits in agricultural systems

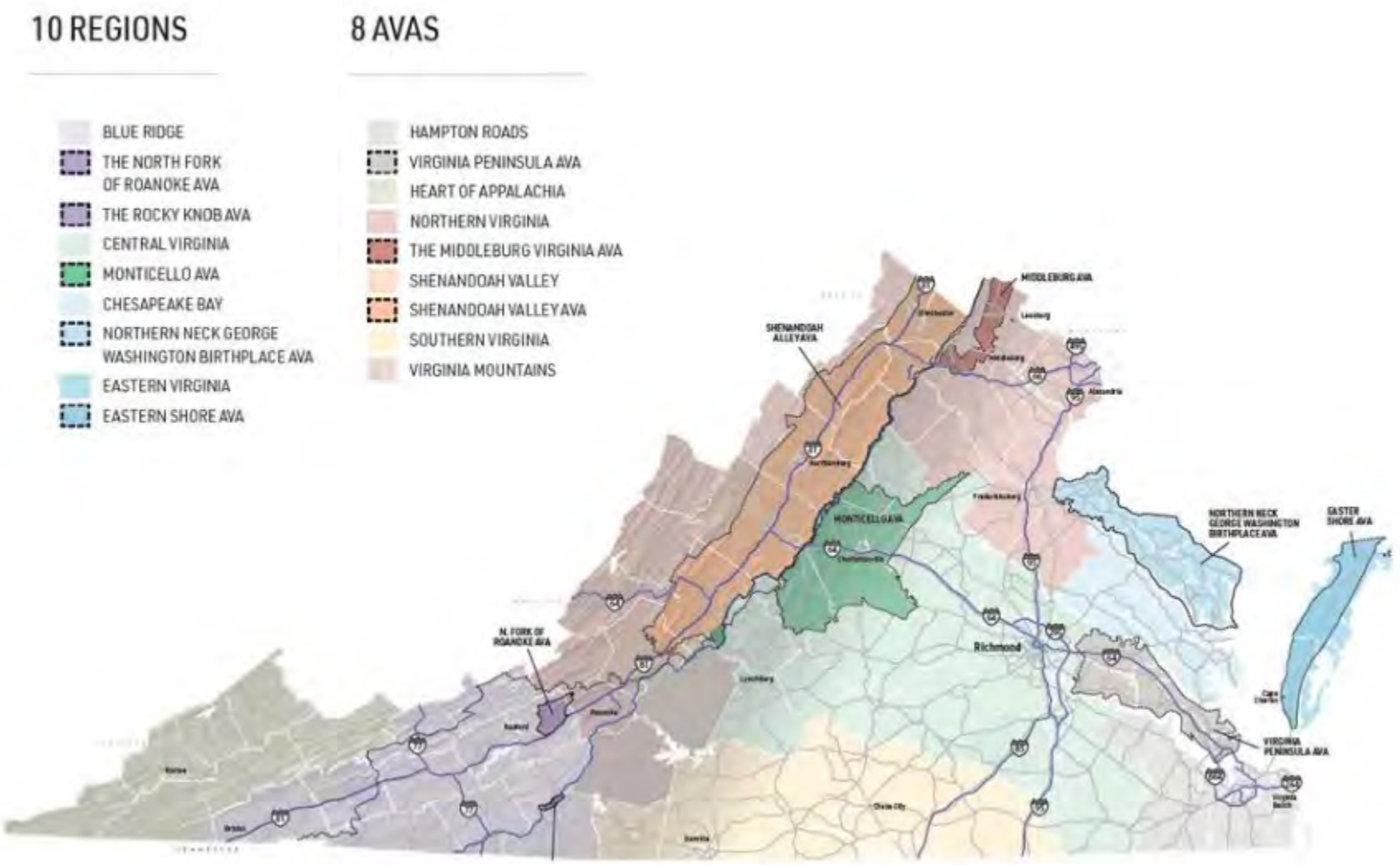
Viticulture has unique relationship with soil health

- Successful production focuses on berry quality rather than yield
- Vines can produce better fruit when subjected to stress

Many soil health guidelines have limited applicability

<u>This project is therefore focused on better understanding soil health principles in vineyards of Virginia</u>

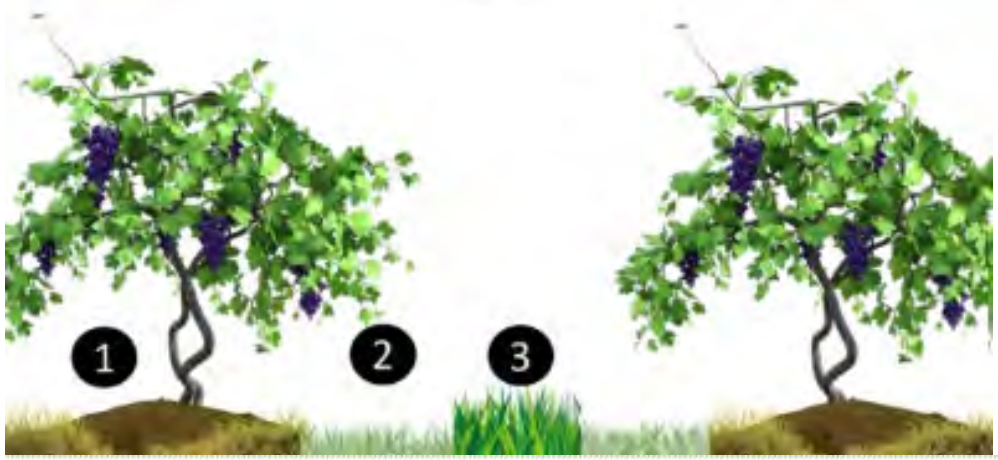
Virginia Vineyards

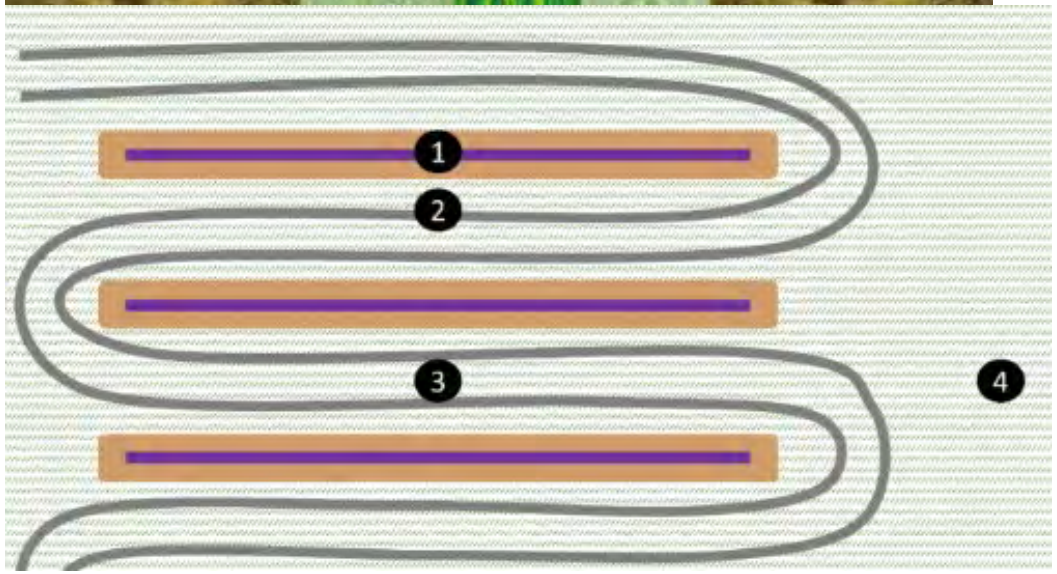


Virginia Vineyards

- We have sampled 12 vineyards across Virginia
- 2 additional vineyards planned for summer 2026
- Sites represent 5 of 10 wine regions and 5 of 8 AVAs

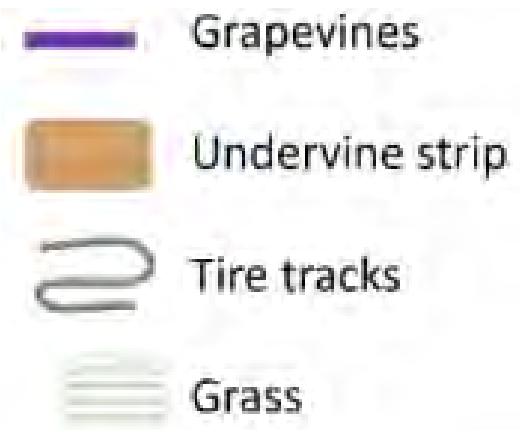
Experimental Design





Key:

(1) Under Vine
(2) Tire Tracks
(3) Row Middle
(4) Adjacent



Methods

Chemical Indicators	Biological Indicators	Physical Indicators
Nutrient analysis[1]	Potentially mineralizable nitrogen[3]	Bulk density[2]
pH[1]	CO_2 respiration[2]	Available water holding capacity[2]
Soil organic matter[1]	Parasitic nematode populations[2]	Aggregate stability[1]
CEC & Base saturation[1]		Texture[1]
C:N ratio[3]		Infiltration rate[1]
		Penetration Resistance[3]

[1] Completed
[2] In-progress
[3] Not complete

Virginia Vineyards

Chrysalis Vineyard

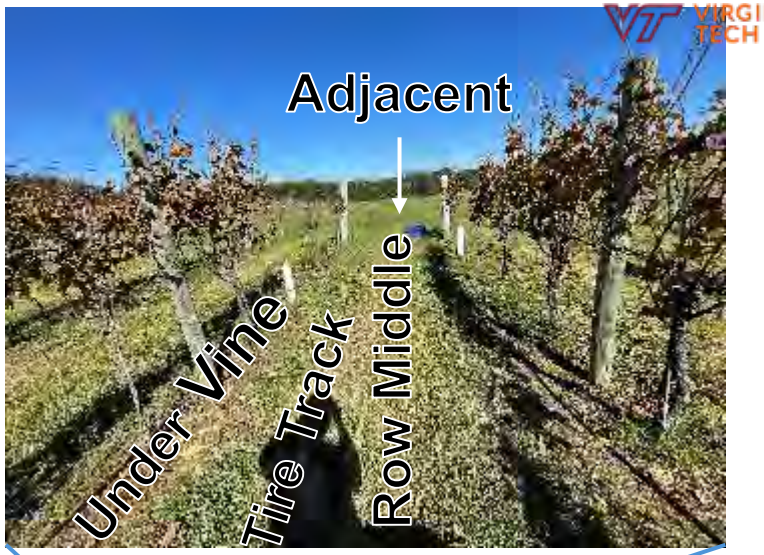
- Middleburg, VA
- Silt Loam-Loam
- 7-15 % slope
- Established 1998, previously pasture
- Under-vine: bare
- Management: string trimmers and herbicides

Chrysalis Vineyards
23876 Champe Ford Rd, Middleburg, VA 20117
Loudoun County, Virginia (VA107)

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
2A	Codorus silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	2.8	2.5%
12B	Rohrersville cobbly silt loam, 0 to 7 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	8.3	7.3%
17B	Middleburg silt loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes	4.3	3.8%
40C	Catoctin channery silt loam, 7 to 15 percent slopes	10.6	9.4%
40D	Catoctin channery silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	16.9	14.9%
43B	Myersville-Catoctin complex, 2 to 7 percent slopes	9.7	8.6%
43C	Myersville-Catoctin complex, 7 to 15 percent slopes	14.3	12.6%
45B	**Fauquier silt loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes**	**23.9**	**21.1%**
45C	**Fauquier silt loam, 7 to 15 percent slopes**	**22.7**	**20.0%**
Totals for Area of Interest		113.5	100.0%

CrossKeys Vineyard

- Mount Crawford, VA
- Silt Loam-Silty Clay Loam
- 2-7% slopes
- Established 2016, previously lawn/grass
- Under-vine: grass
- Management: mowing, herbicides, and fungicides



CrossKeys Vineyards
7959 Bradbury Rd, Richmond, VA 23231
Rockingham County, Virginia (VA165)

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
5C2	Berks-Weikert channery silt loams, 7 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	21.0	21.9%
5D2	Berks-Weikert channery silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	12.2	12.8%
58B2	**Sequoia silt loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes, eroded**	**28.0**	**29.2%**
59B2	Sequoia-Berks silt loams, 2 to 7 percent slopes, eroded	2.4	2.5%
59C2	Sequoia-Berks silt loams, 7 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	21.1	22.1%
74E2	Weikert-Berks channery silt loams, 25 to 45 percent slopes, eroded	11.1	11.6%
Totals for Area of Interest		95.7	100.0%

Beliveau Vineyard

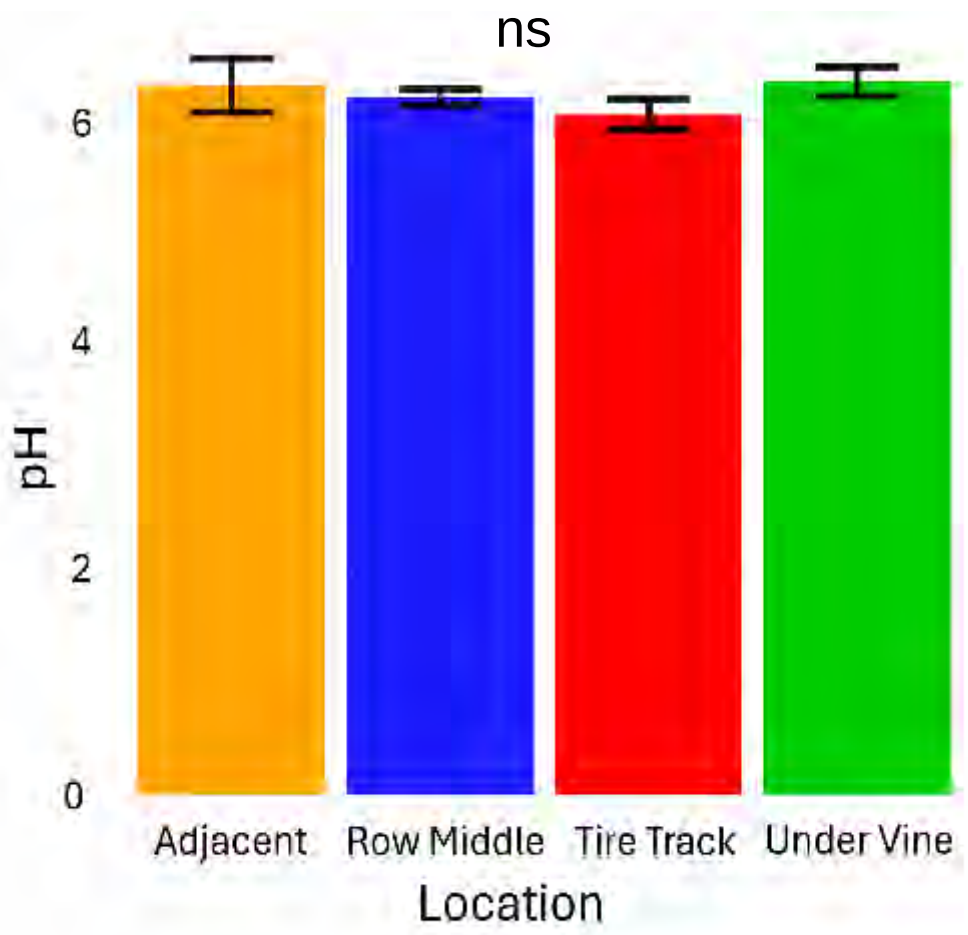
- Blacksburg, VA
- Silt Loam
- Mixture of slopes (2% to >25%)
- Established 2009, previously pasture and forest
- Under-vine: bare
- Management: herbicides

Beliveau Farm Winery
3899 Eakin Farm Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060
Montgomery County, Virginia (VA121)

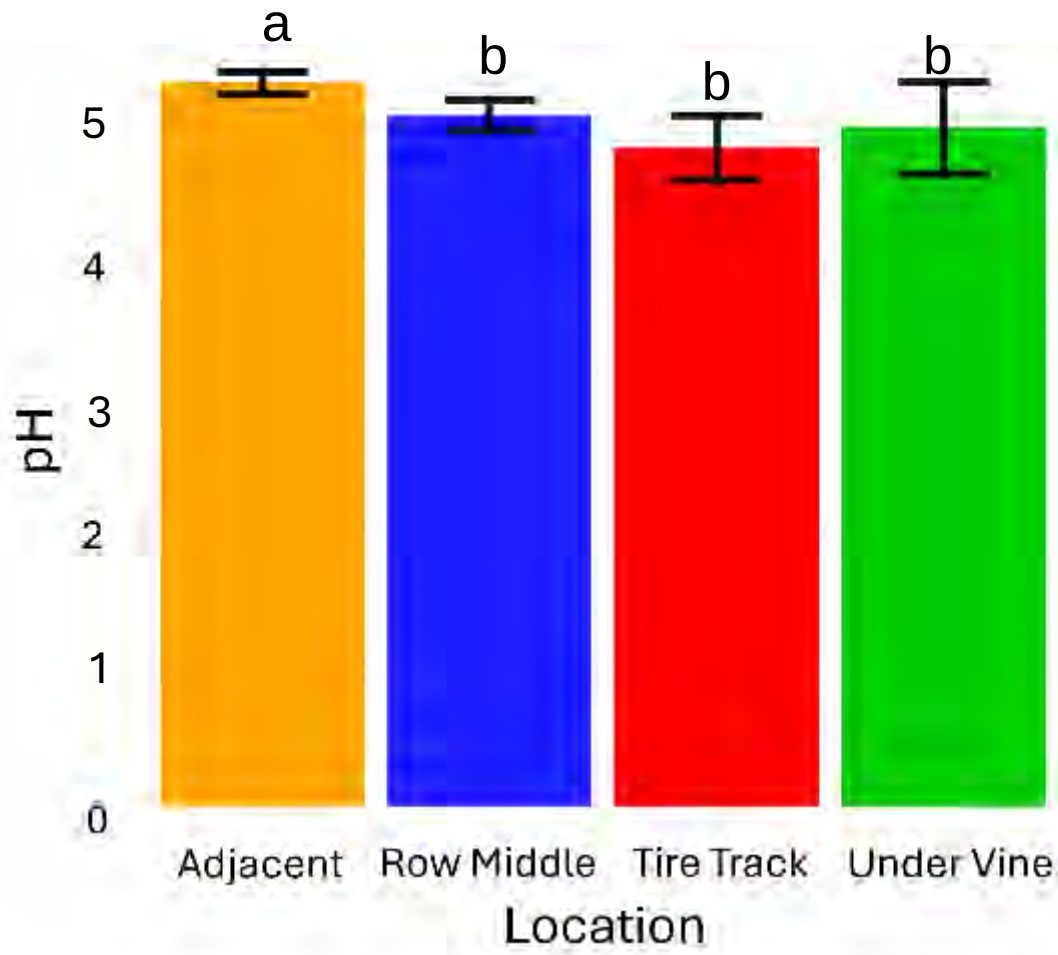
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
8E	Caneyville-Opequon-Rock outcrop complex, 25 to 60 percent slopes	0.1	0.4%
11C	Duffield-Ernest complex, 7 to 15 percent slopes	0.4	1.2%
13B	**Frederick and Vertrees gravelly silt loams, 2 to 7 percent slopes**	**1.9**	**6.2%**
13C	Frederick and Vertrees gravelly silt loams, 7 to 15 percent slopes	7.4	24.0%
13D	**Frederick and Vertrees gravelly silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes**	**14.9**	**48.6%**
16C	Groseclose and Poplimento soils, 7 to 15 percent slopes	0.2	0.5%
16D	**Groseclose and Poplimento soils, 15 to 25 percent slopes**	**3.5**	**11.3%**
16E	Groseclose and Poplimento soils, 25 to 60 percent slopes	2.4	7.7%
Totals for Area of Interest		30.7	100.0%

pH

Chrysalis Vineyard

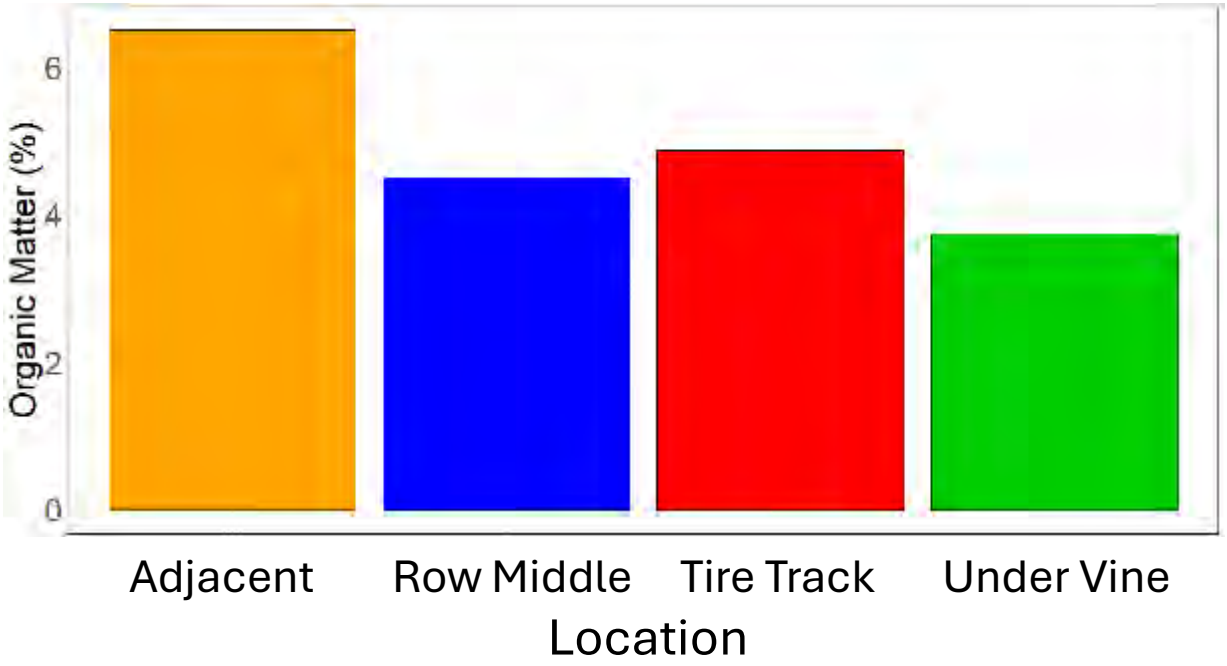


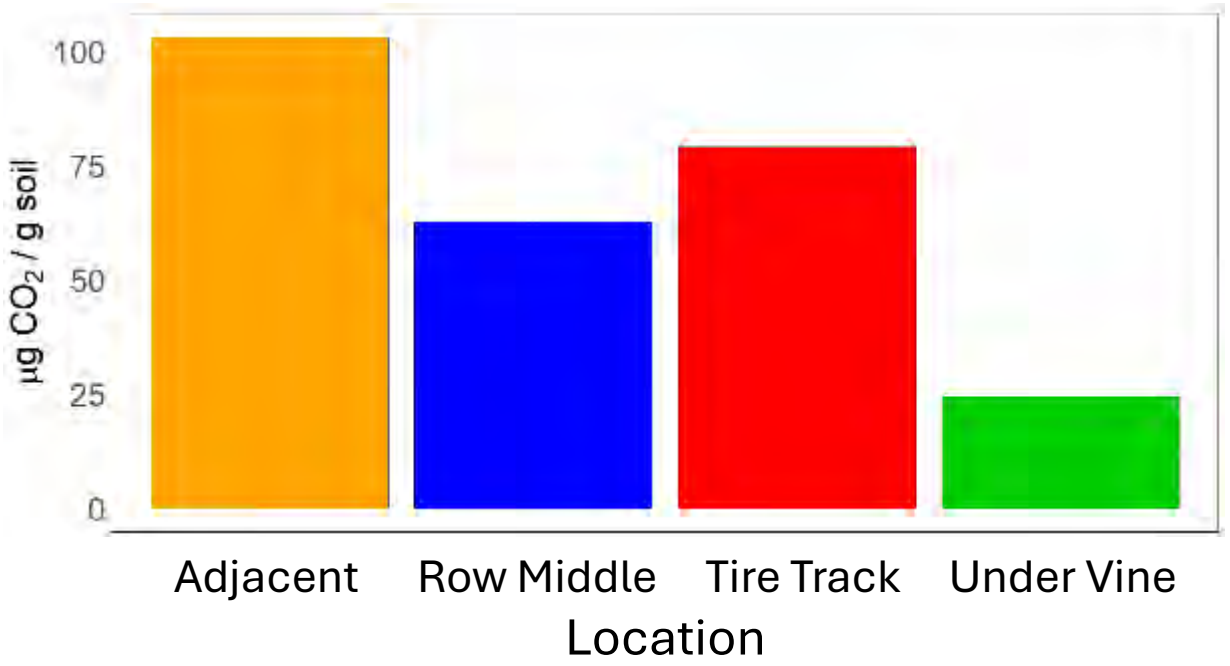
CrossKeys Vineyard



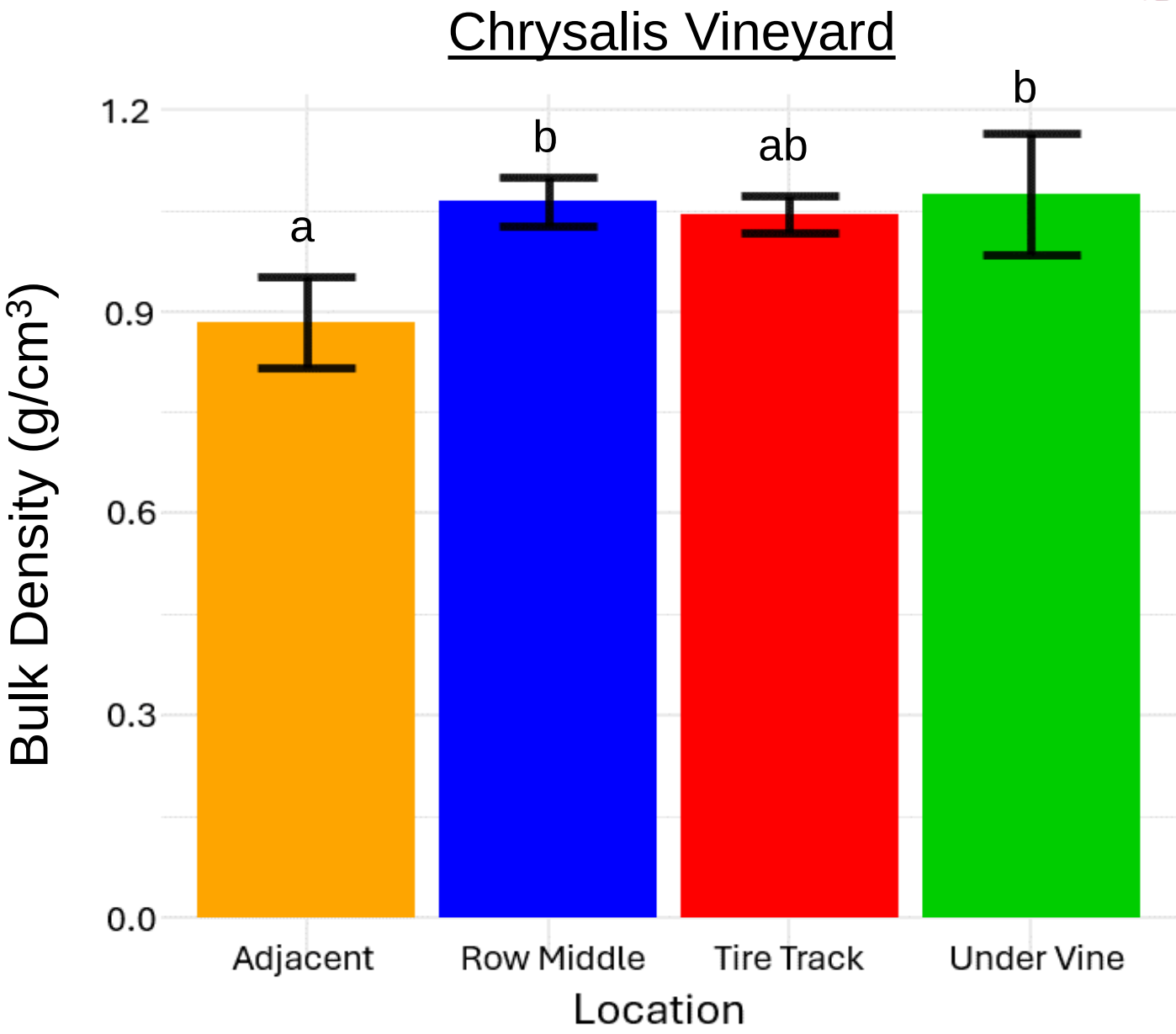
Organic Matter and CO_2 Burst

Beliveau Vineyard



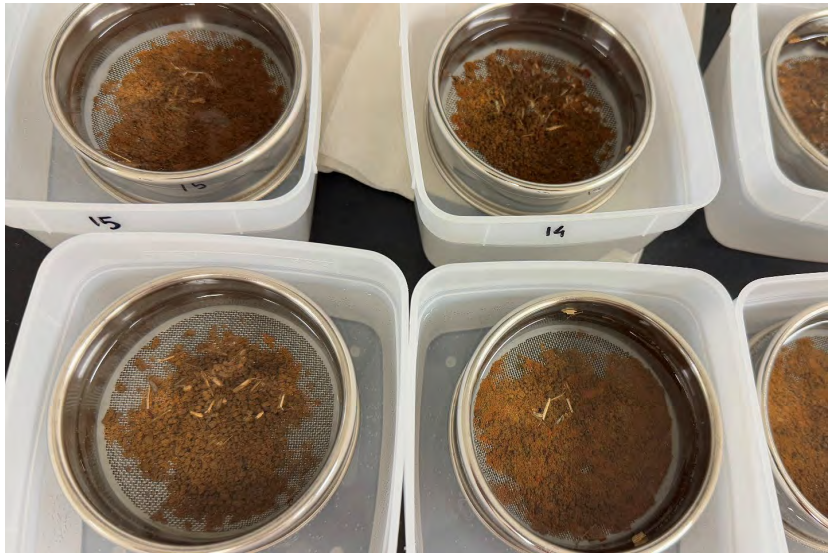


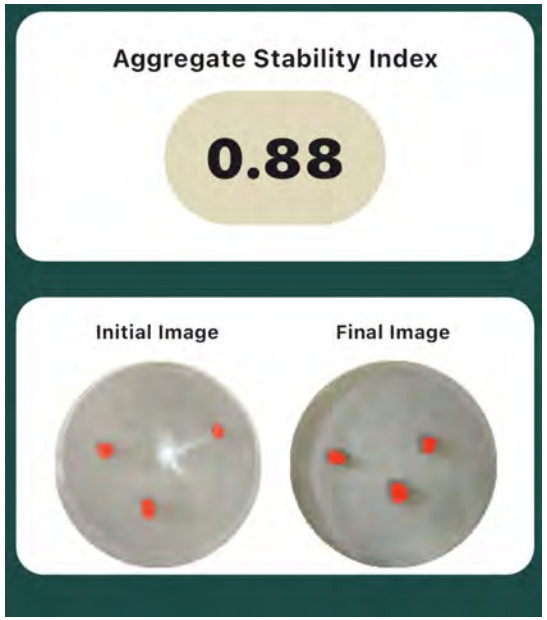
Bulk Density



Aggregate Stability Methods

- Kellogg Soil Survey Lab Sieve Method (KSSL)
- SLAKES app
- Cornell Sprinkler Infiltrometer (CRS)
- Integrated Aggregate Stability (IAS)

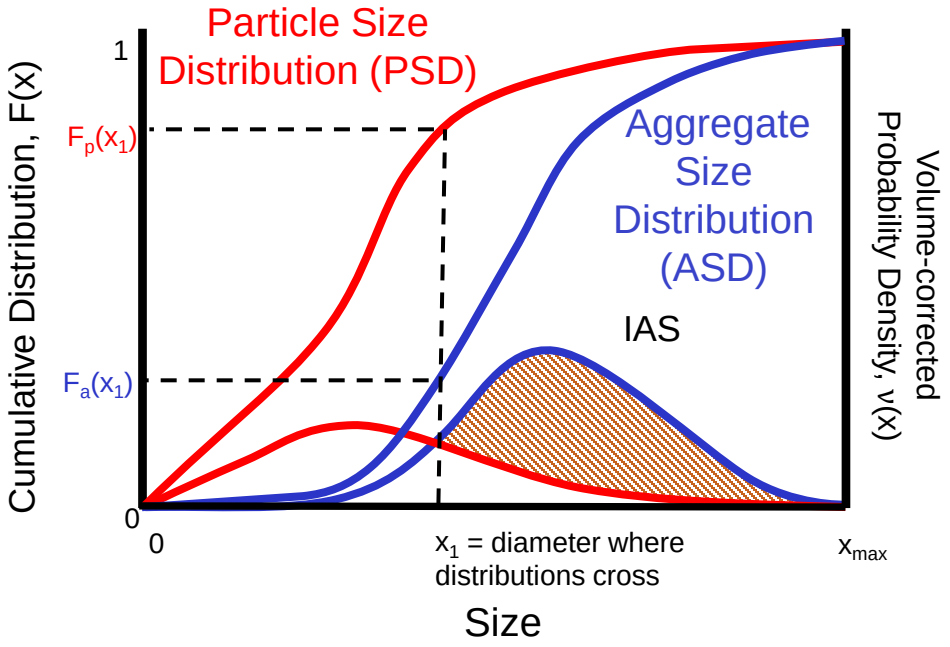




Water Stable Aggregates

Method	Approach	Aggregate size	Force applied	Sand correction	Calculation basis	Mass added
KSSL	Repeated submerging in water	1-2 mm	Mechanical stress from standardized movement	Yes	Mass	3 g
SLAKES	Submerging large aggregates in water	3-10 mm	Slaking of aggregates from submersion	No	Area	~4 g
CRS	Simulated rainfall	0.25-2 mm	Velocity of a raindrop on dry soil	Yes	Mass	~5 g
IAS	Sonication of aggregates	<2 mm	Ultrasonic waves over time applied to aggregates	Partial, method corrects for particle distribution	Volume	0.2-2 g

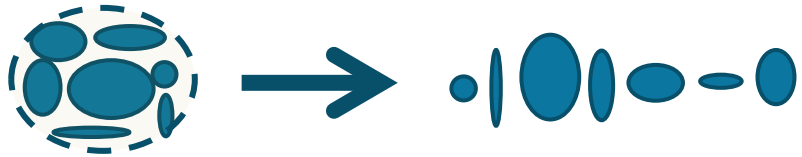
Integrated Aggregate Stability



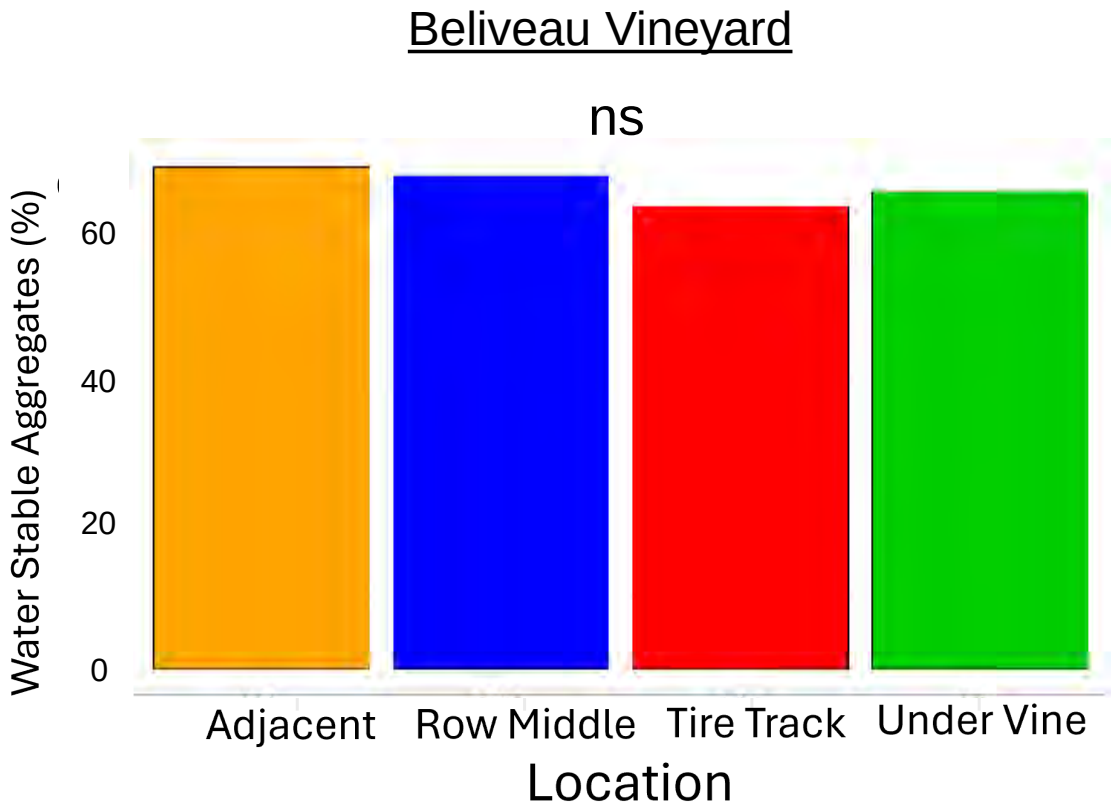
$$IAS = 1 - \lambda + \lambda Fp(x_1) - Fa(x_1)$$

$$\lambda = \frac{Specific\ volume\ of\ particles}{Specific\ volume\ of\ aggregates}$$

Aggregates Particles

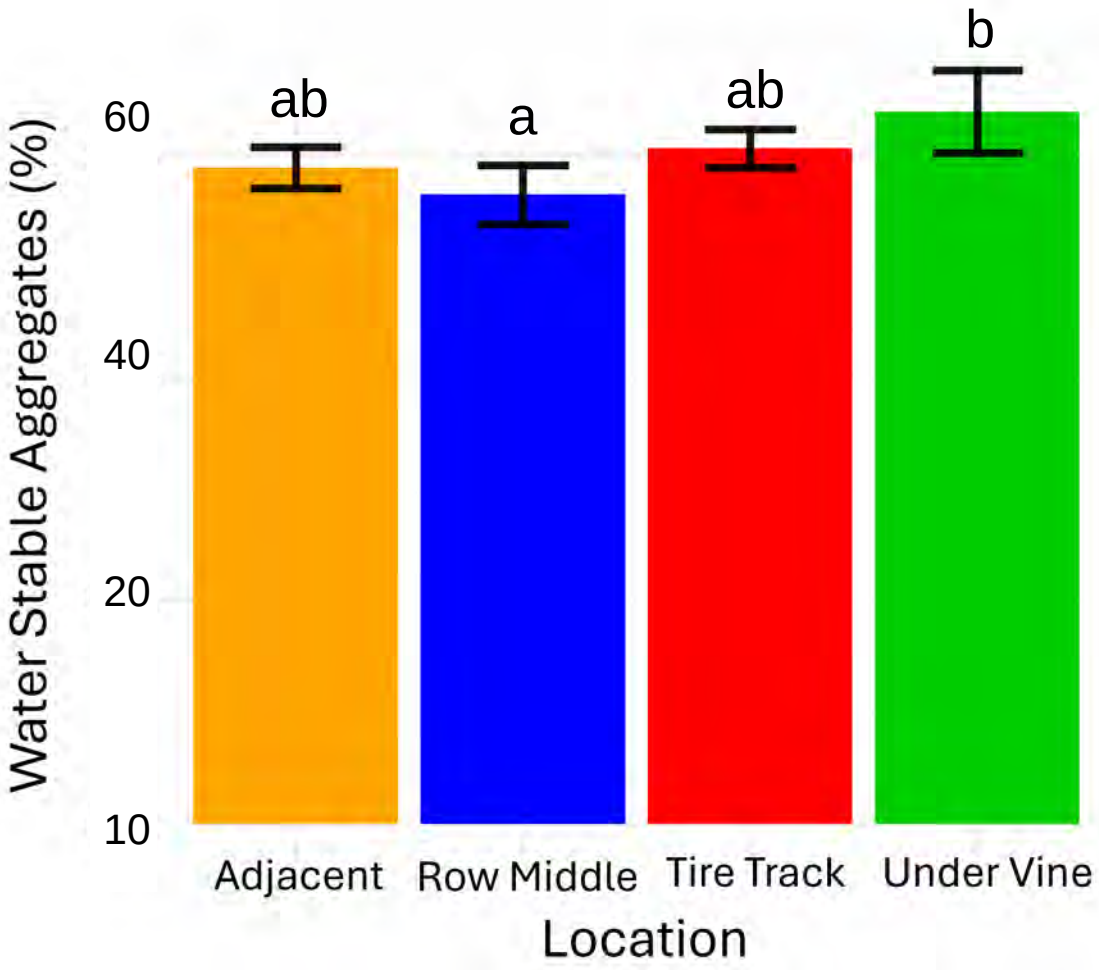


Joshi Gyawali and Stewart (2019)

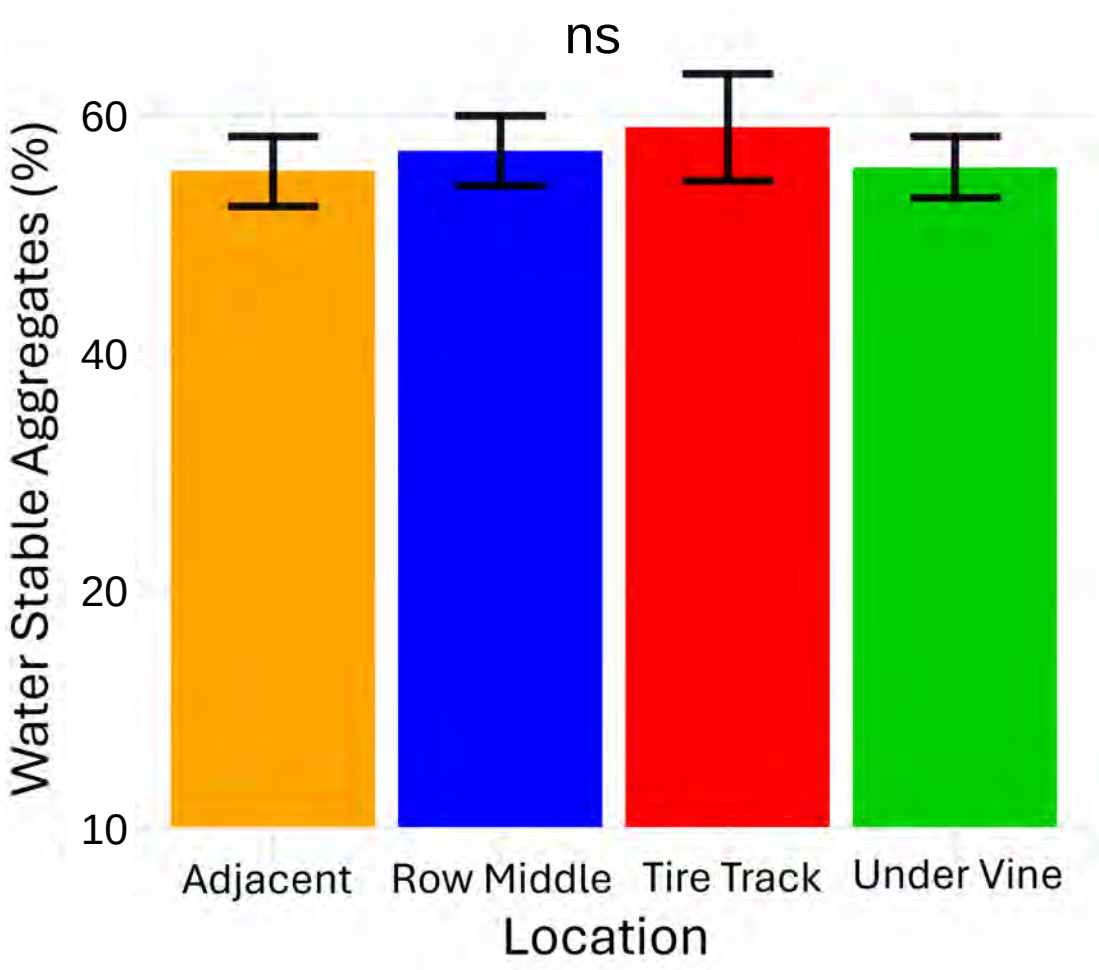


Water Stable Aggregates

Chrysalis Vineyard

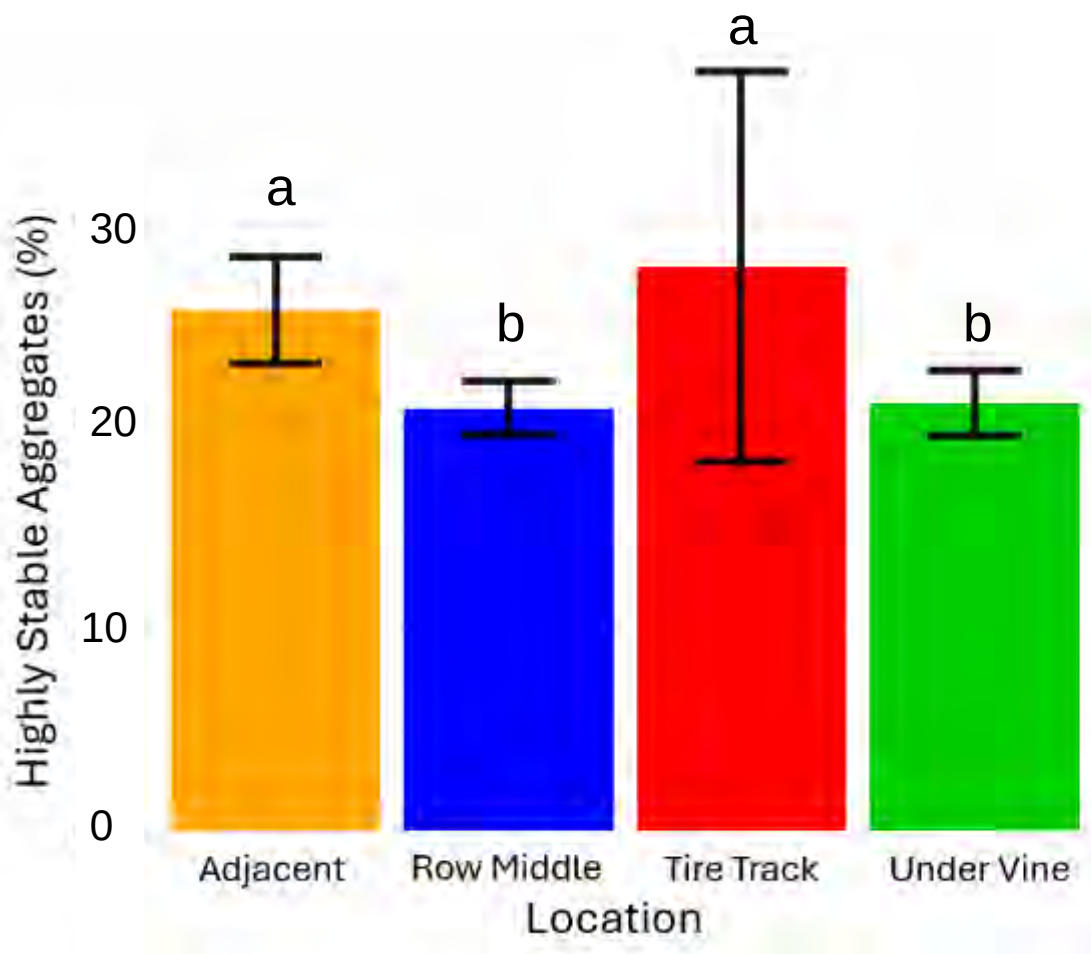


CrossKeys Vineyard

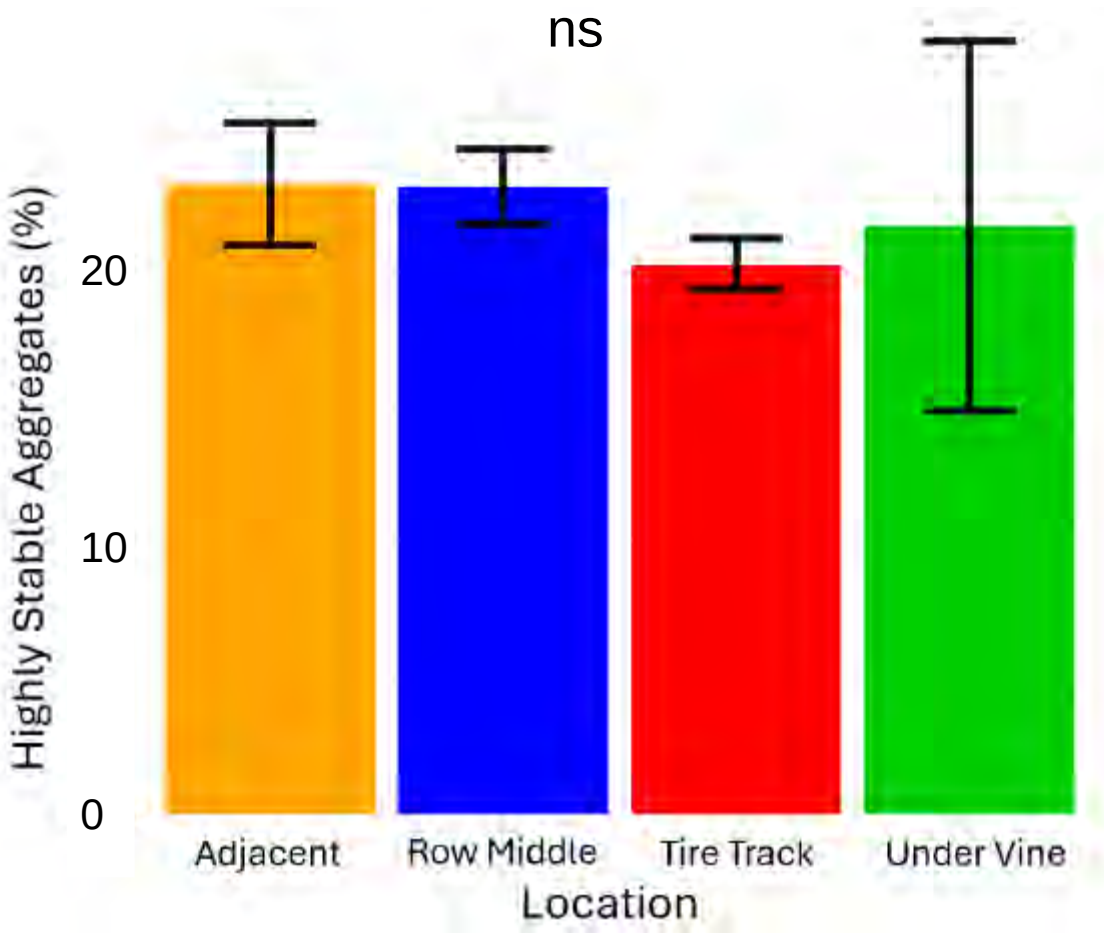


Highly Stable Aggregates

Chrysalis Vineyard

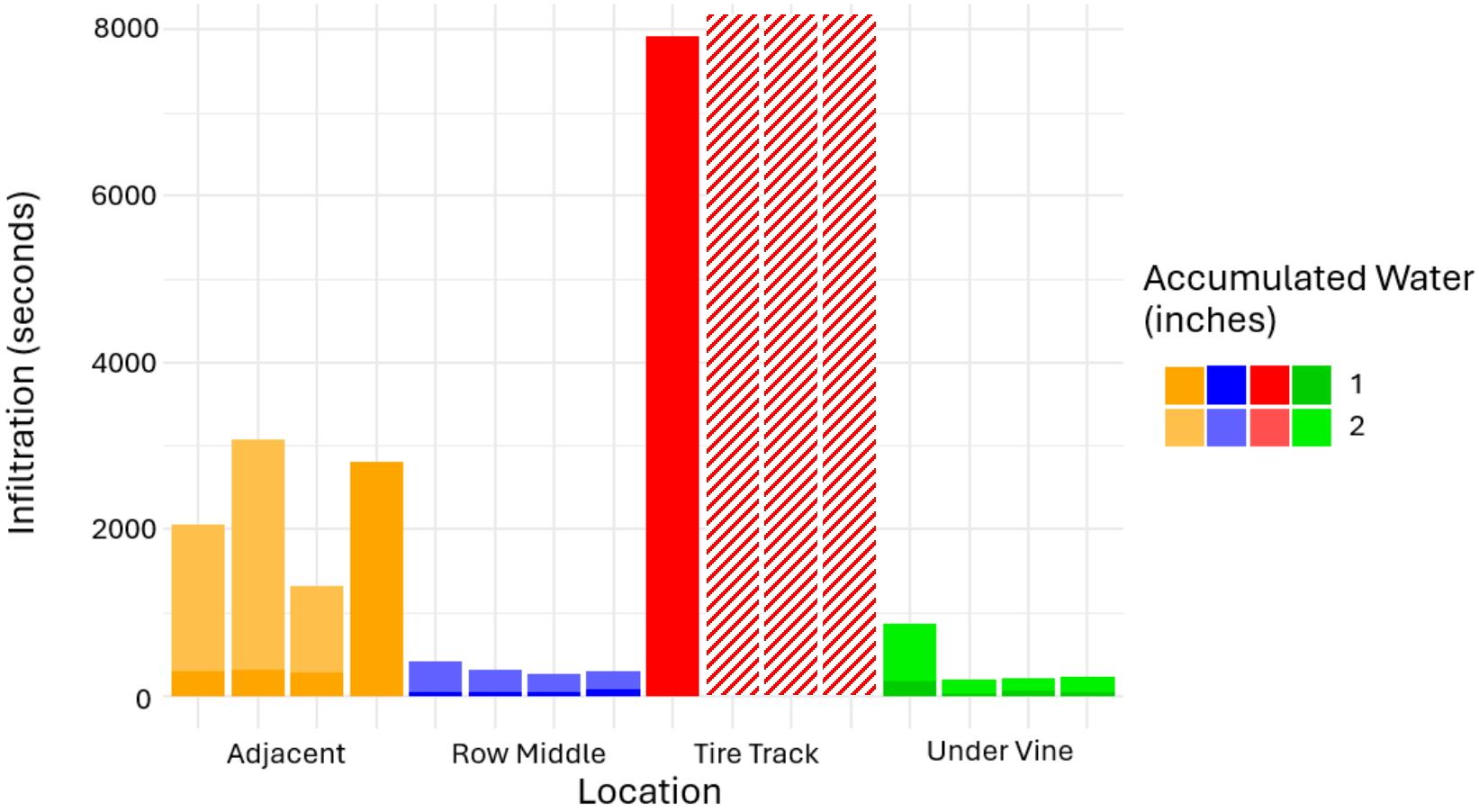


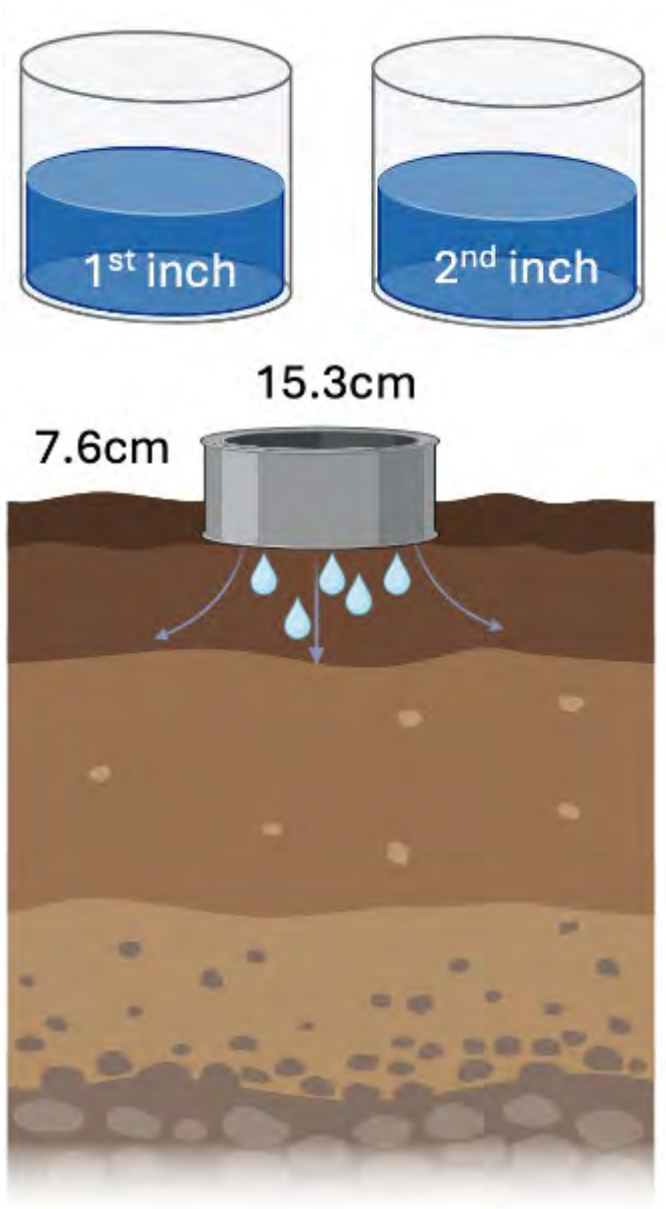
CrossKeys Vineyard



Infiltration Rate

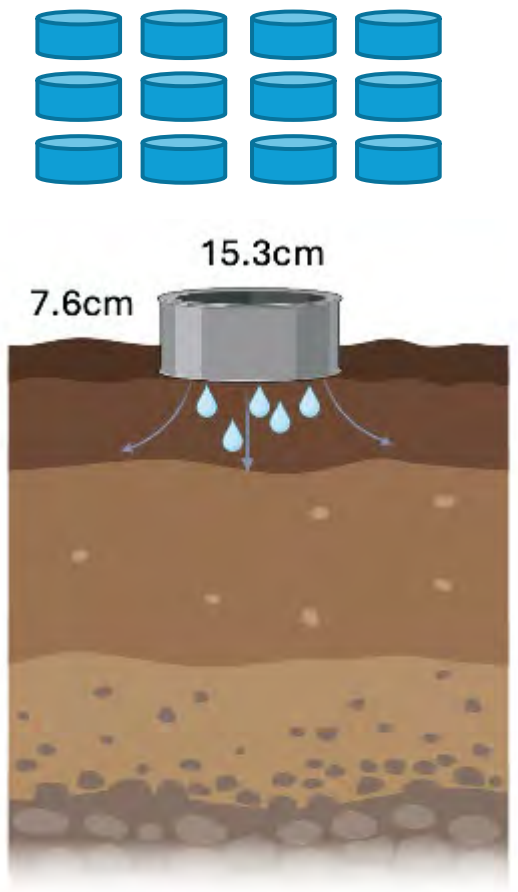
CrossKeys Vineyard



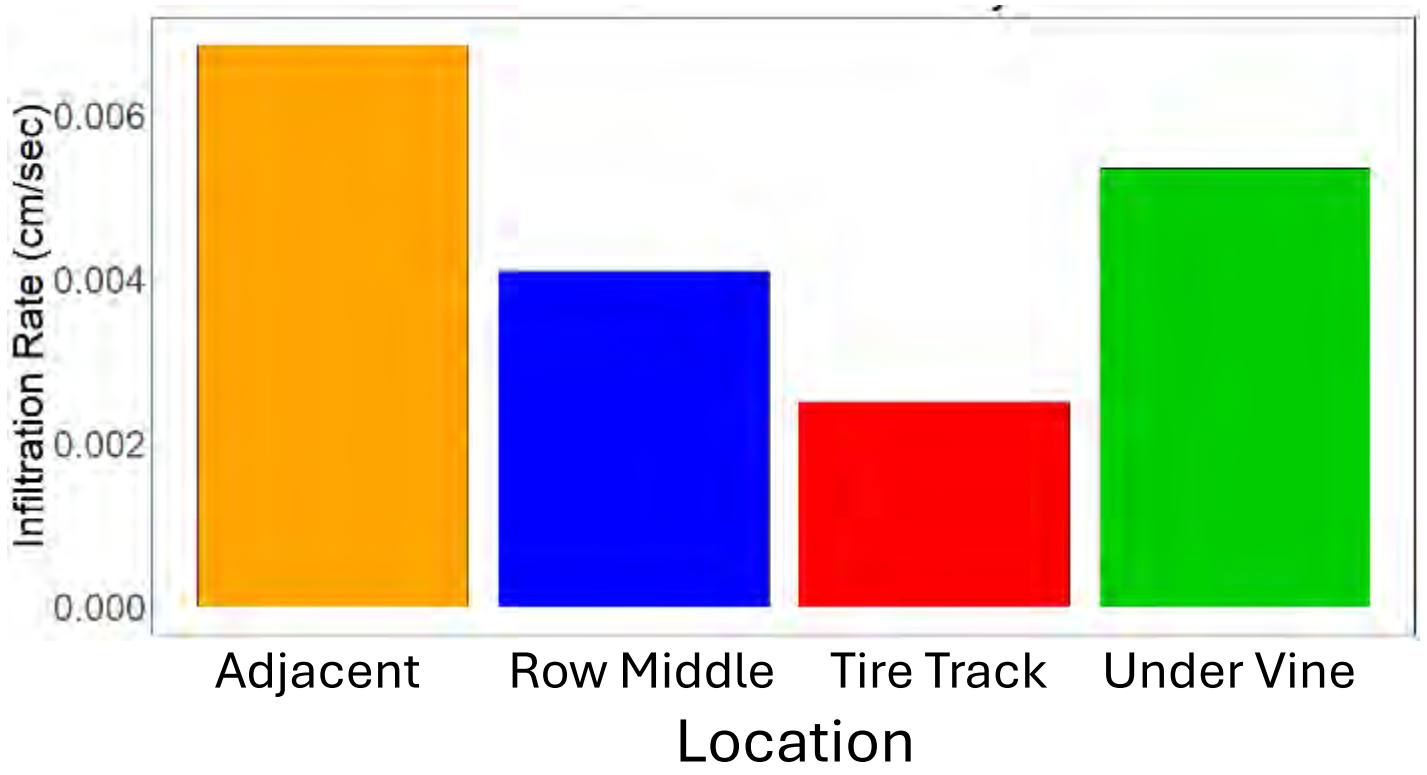


Infiltration Rate

Repeated 100 mL additions



Beliveau Vineyard



Next Steps

- Revisit and resample certain vineyards
  - Identify seasonal shifts in soil health indicators
- Assess effects of undervine management on soil health and grape quality
  - Herbicides vs. cultivation vs. vegetation
- Measure and assess how runoff processes vary within vineyards
- Complete laboratory analyses
- Develop and disseminate soil health indicator framework
- Publish results and complete student theses
  - Two M.S. students currently working on project

Alson H. Smith, Jr. AG Research
595 Laurel Grove Road
Winchester, VA 22602
Frederick County, Virginia (VA069)

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
14B	**Frederick-Poplimento loams, 2 to 7 percent slopes**	**2.0**	**21.0%**
14C	**Frederick-Poplimento loams, 7 to 15 percent slopes**	**6.0**	**63.6%**
14D	Frederick-Poplimento loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes	1.5	15.5%
Totals for Area of Interest		9.5	100.0%

Delaplane Cellars
2187 Winchester Road, Delaplane, VA
20144 Fauquier County, Virginia (VA061)

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
10A	Mongle silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	4.1	11.2%
17B	Middleburg loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes, frequently flooded	5.2	14.2%
20D	**Tankerville-Purcellville complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes, rocky**	**17.2**	**47.1%**
31C	Purcellville-Tankerville complex, 7 to 15 percent slopes	0.5	1.4%
121D	Pigeonroost-Edneytown complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very stony	5.0	13.7%
221D	Pigeonroost-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes	4.4	12.1%
221E	Pigeonroost-Rock outcrop complex, 25 to 45 percent slopes	0.1	0.3%
Totals for Area of Interest		36.5	100.0%

Springlot Vineyards
2336 Leeds Manor Road
Markham, VA 22643
Fauquier County, Virginia (VA061)

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
20D	**Tankerville-Purcellville complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes, rocky**	**8.6**	**85.1%**
20E	Tankerville loam, 25 to 45 percent slopes, rocky	1.4	13.4%
41E	Pignut silt loam, 25 to 45 percent slopes, extremely stony	0.1	1.5%
Totals for Area of Interest		10.2	100.0%

Chrysalis Vineyards
23876 Champe Ford Road
Middleburg, VA 20117
Loudoun County, Virginia (VA107)

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
2A	Codorus silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	2.8	2.5%
12B	Rohrersville cobbly silt loam, 0 to 7 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	8.3	7.3%
17B	Middleburg silt loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes	4.3	3.8%
40C	Catoctin channery silt loam, 7 to 15 percent slopes	10.6	9.4%
40D	Catoctin channery silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	16.9	14.9%
43B	Myersville-Catoctin complex, 2 to 7 percent slopes	9.7	8.6%
43C	Myersville-Catoctin complex, 7 to 15 percent slopes	14.3	12.6%
45B	**Fauquier silt loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes**	**23.9**	**21.1%**
45C	**Fauquier silt loam, 7 to 15 percent slopes**	**22.7**	**20.0%**
Totals for Area of Interest		113.5	100.0%

CrossKeys Vineyards
7959 Bradbury Road
Richmond, VA 23231
Rockingham County, Virginia (VA165)

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
5C2	Berks-Weikert channery silt loams, 7 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	21.0	21.9%
5D2	Berks-Weikert channery silt loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	12.2	12.8%
58B2	**Sequoia silt loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes, eroded**	**28.0**	**29.2%**
59B2	Sequoia-Berks silt loams, 2 to 7 percent slopes, eroded	2.4	2.5%
59C2	Sequoia-Berks silt loams, 7 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	21.1	22.1%
74E2	Weikert-Berks channery silt loams, 25 to 45 percent slopes, eroded	11.1	11.6%
Totals for Area of Interest		95.7	100.0%

Chatham Vineyards and Winery
9232 Chatham Rd, Machipongo, VA 23405
Northhampton County, Virginia (VA131)

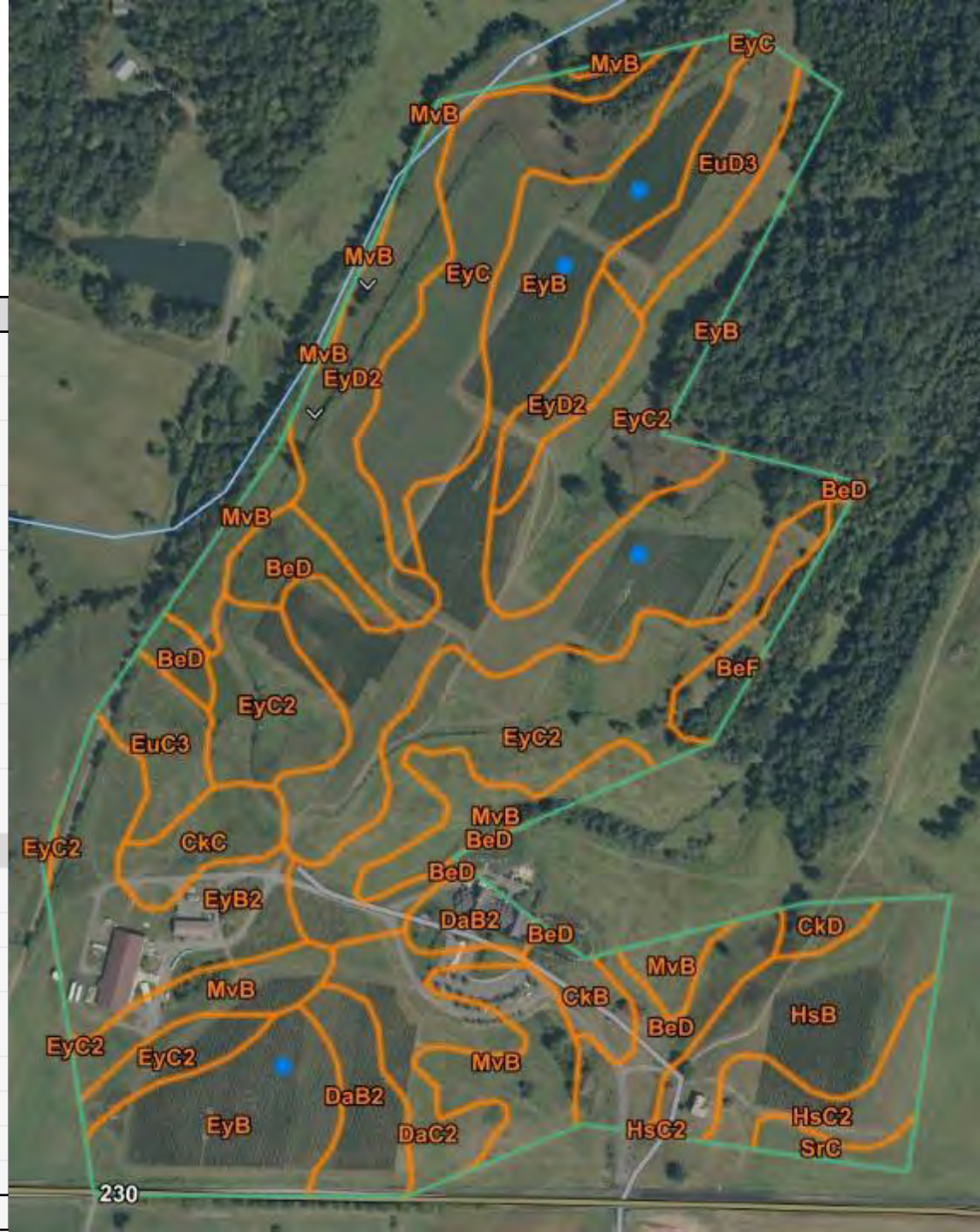
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
BhB	Bojac loamy sand, 2 to 6 percent slopes	1.6	1.6%
BoA	**Bojac fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes**	**96.4**	**96.7%**
MaA	Magotha fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	0.4	0.4%
MoD	Molena loamy sand, 6 to 35 percent slopes	1.3	1.3%
Totals for Area of Interest		99.7	100.0%

Revelation Vineyards
2710 Hebron Valley Road
Madison, VA 22727
Madison County, Virginia (VA113)

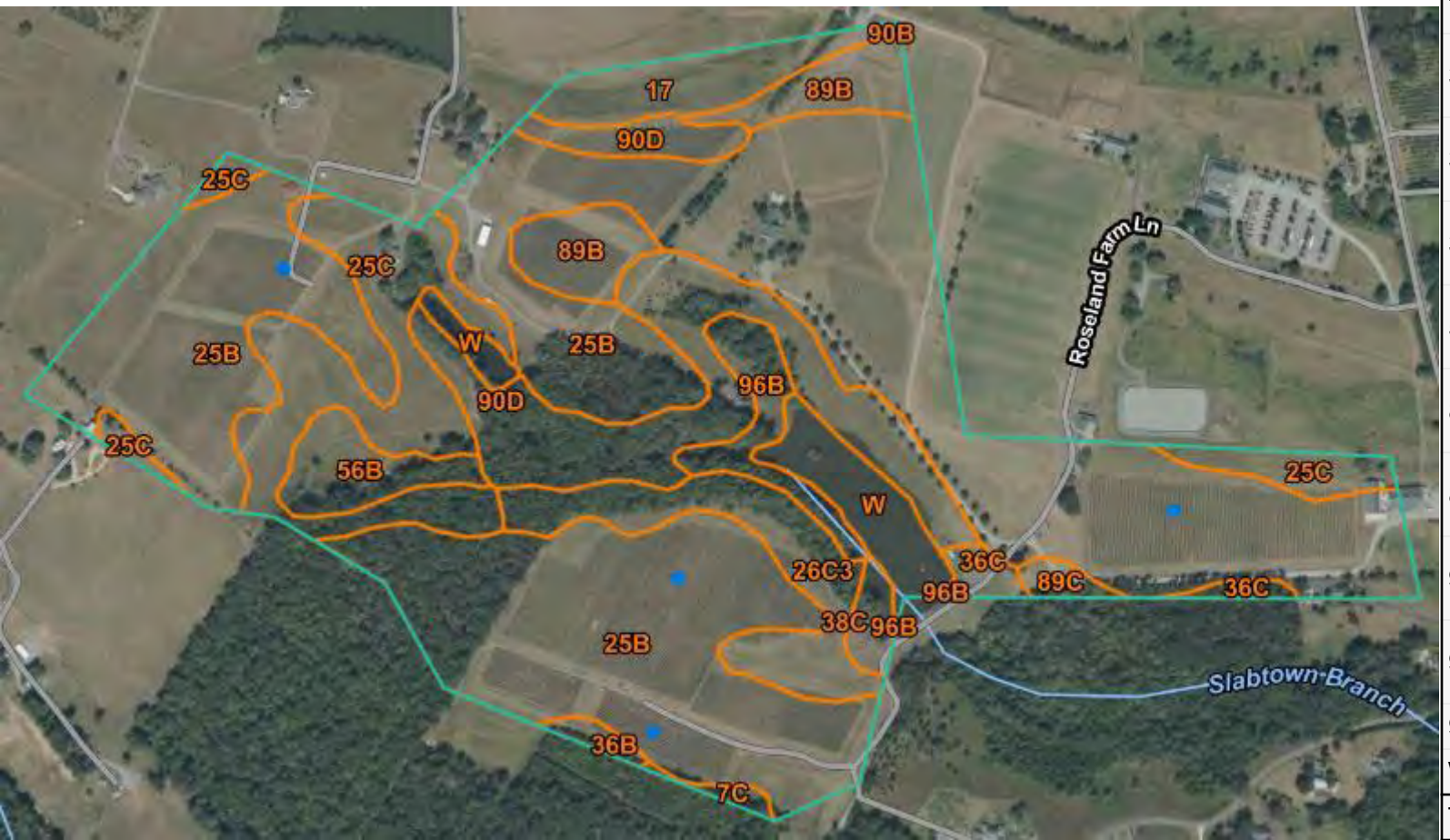
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
BeD	Brandywine loam, very deep, 15 to 25 percent slopes	0.3	1.6%
BeF	Brandywine loam, very deep, 25 to 45 percent slopes	0.0	0.2%
HsB	**Hiwassee loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes**	**7.9**	**38.1%**
HsB2	**Hiwassee loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes, eroded**	**6.6**	**32.1%**
HsC2	Hiwassee loam, 7 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	4.8	23.3%
SrC	Starr silt loam, 2 to 10 percent slopes	0.6	3.0%
WmB	Worsham loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes	0.3	1.7%
Totals for Area of Interest		20.7	100.0%

Early Mountain Vineyards
6109 Wolftown-Hood Road
Madison, VA 22727
Madison County, Virginia (VA113)

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
BeD	Brandywine loam, very deep, 15 to 25 percent slopes	5.9	4.8%
BeF	Brandywine loam, very deep, 25 to 45 percent slopes	1.6	1.3%
CkB	Chester-Brandywine loams, very deep, 2 to 7 percent slopes	1.4	1.1%
CkC	Chester-Brandywine loams, very deep, 7 to 15 percent slopes	2.2	1.8%
CkD	Chester-Brandywine loams, very deep, 15 to 25 percent slopes	0.8	0.6%
DaB2	Davidson clay loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes, eroded	4.2	3.4%
DaC2	Davidson clay loam, 7 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	4.3	3.5%
EuC3	Eubanks-Lloyd clay loams, 7 to 15 percent slopes, severely eroded	2.4	2.0%
EuD3	Eubanks-Lloyd clay loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded	3.4	2.8%
EyB	**Eubanks-Lloyd loams, 2 to 7 percent slopes**	**26.2**	**21.3%**
EyB2	Eubanks-Lloyd loams, 2 to 7 percent slopes, eroded	7.2	5.9%
EyC	Eubanks-Lloyd loams, 7 to 15 percent slopes	9.1	7.4%
EyC2	Eubanks-Lloyd loams, 7 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	24.0	19.5%
EyD2	Eubanks-Lloyd loams, 15 to 25 percent slopes, eroded	8.9	7.3%
HsB	Hiwassee loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes	6.2	5.1%
HsC2	Hiwassee loam, 7 to 15 percent slopes, eroded	2.9	2.4%
MvB	Meadowville loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes	11.4	9.2%
SrC	Starr silt loam, 2 to 10 percent slopes	0.8	0.7%
Totals for Area of Interest		122.9	100.0%



King Family Vineyards
6550 Roseland Farm
Crozet, VA 22932
Albemarle County, Virginia (VA003)



Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
7C	Braddock loam, 7 to 15 percent slopes	0.5	0.3%
17	Craigsville loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	5.1	2.9%
25B	**Drayke silt loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes**	**98.6**	**56.6%**
25C	Drayke silt loam, 7 to 15 percent slopes	18.2	10.4%
26C3	Drayke clay loam, 7 to 15 percent slopes, severely eroded	8.9	5.1%
36B	Hayesville loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes	0.7	0.4%
36C	Hayesville loam, 7 to 15 percent slopes	1.6	0.9%
38C	Hayesville loam, 7 to 15 percent slopes, very stony	1.3	0.8%
56B	Meadowville loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes	3.9	2.2%
89B	Unison silt loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes	6.6	3.8%
89C	Unison silt loam, 7 to 15 percent slopes	0.9	0.5%
90B	Unison very stony silt loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes	0.1	0.1%
90D	Unison very stony silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes	18.0	10.3%
96B	Delila loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes	4.0	2.3%
W	Water	5.7	3.3%
Totals for Area of Interest		174.2	100.0%

Loving Cup Vineyard and Winery
3340 Sutherland Road
North Garden, VA 22959
Albemarle County, Virginia (VA003)

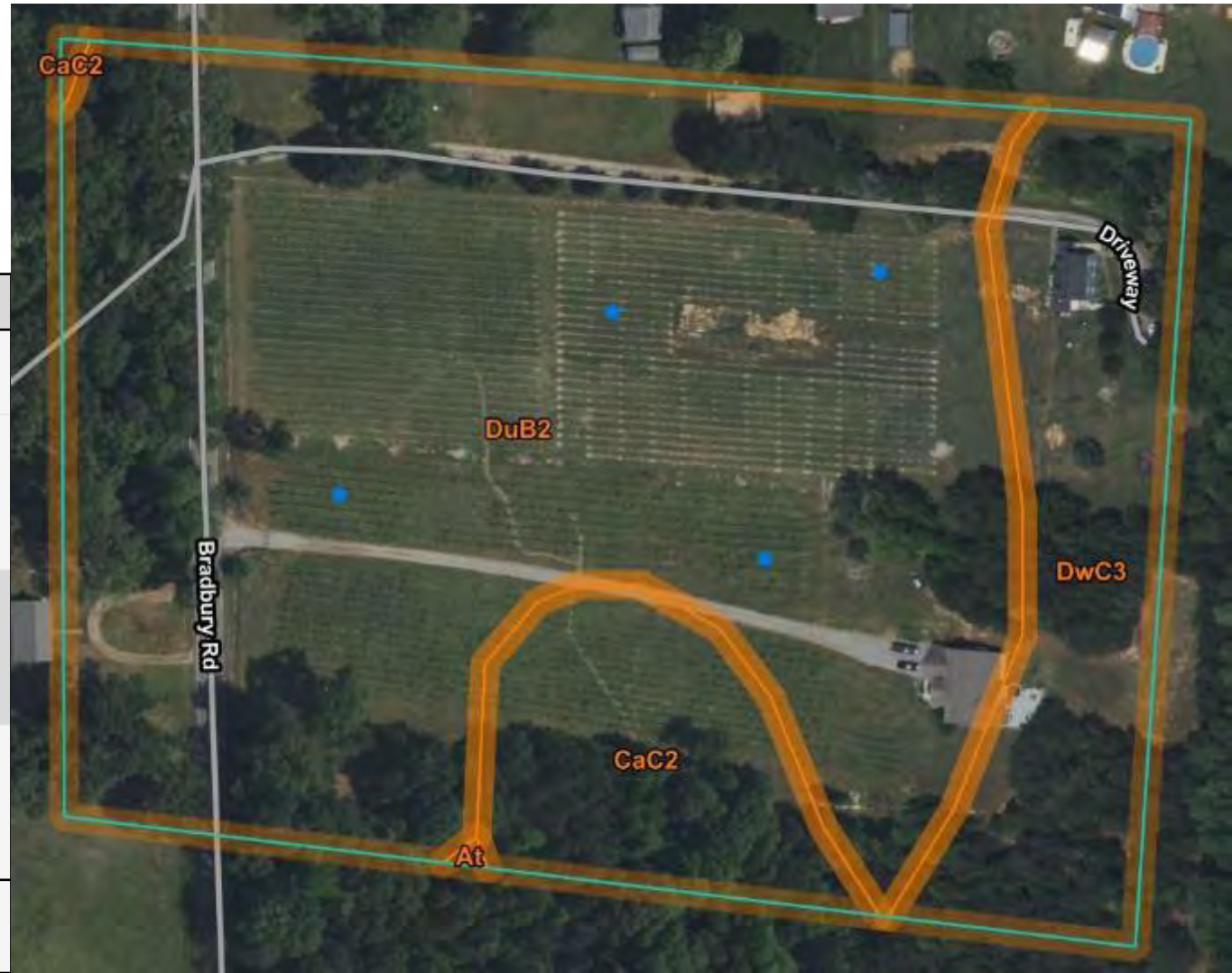
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
16	Codorus silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	4.4	42.2%
20D3	Minneville clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded	1.5	14.4%
26D3	Drayce clay loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, severely eroded	0.1	1.1%
79B	**Meadowville silt loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes**	**4.4**	**42.3%**
Totals for Area of Interest		10.4	100.0%

Mount Alto Vineyards
10436 Howardsville Turnpike
Esmont, VA 22937
Albemarle County, Virginia (VA003)

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
51D	**Bugley channery silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes**	**5.0**	**59.6%**
62B	Buffstat silt loam, 2 to 7 percent slopes	0.7	8.5%
62C	Buffstat silt loam, 7 to 15 percent slopes	2.7	31.9%
Totals for Area of Interest		8.5	100.0%

River Dog Winery
7959 Bradbury Road
Richmond, VA 23231
Henrico County, Virginia (VA087)

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
At	Atlee very fine sandy loam	0.0	0.1%
CaC2	Caroline very fine sandy loam, 6 to 10 percent slopes, eroded	1.2	10.0%
DuB2	**Duplin very fine sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes, eroded**	**8.7**	**74.0%**
DwC3	Duplin clay loam, 2 to 10 percent slopes, severely eroded	1.9	15.9%
Totals for Area of Interest		11.8	100.0%



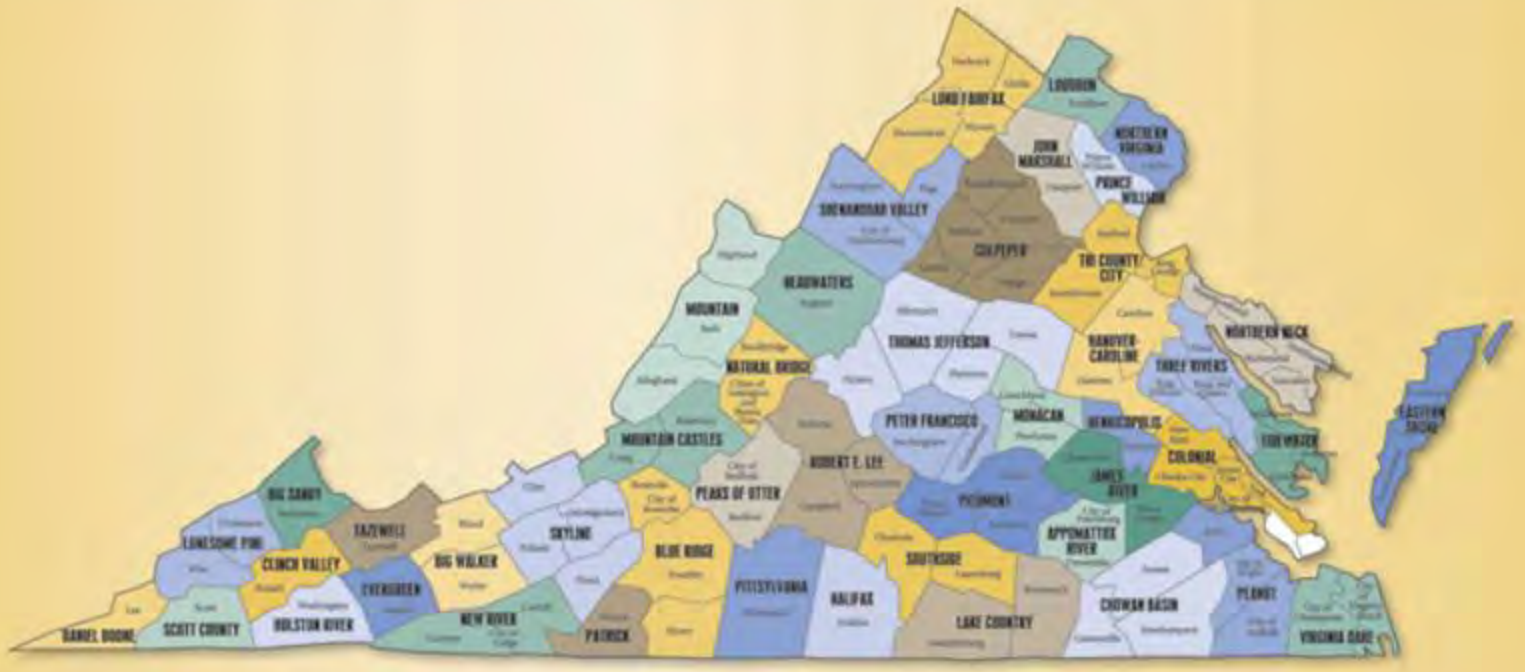
Mountainrose Vineyards
10439 N Reservoir Road
Wise, VA 24293
Wise County, Virginia (VA195)

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
39G	Kaymine and Fiveblock soils, 55 to 80 percent slopes, extremely stony	1.2	3.9%
40E	**Kaymine very channery silt loam, 15 to 35 percent slopes, extremely stony**	**13.2**	**42.3%**
42C	Kaymine-Fiveblock-Cedarcreek complex, 0 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony	10.5	33.8%
70G	Shelocta-Kaymine complex, 55 to 80 percent slopes, very bouldery	0.5	1.6%
76G	Udorthents-Urban land complex, 0 to 80 percent slopes	5.8	18.5%
Totals for Area of Interest		31.2	100.0%

VIRGINIA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT UPDATES

DR. KENDALL TYREE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
VASWCD

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



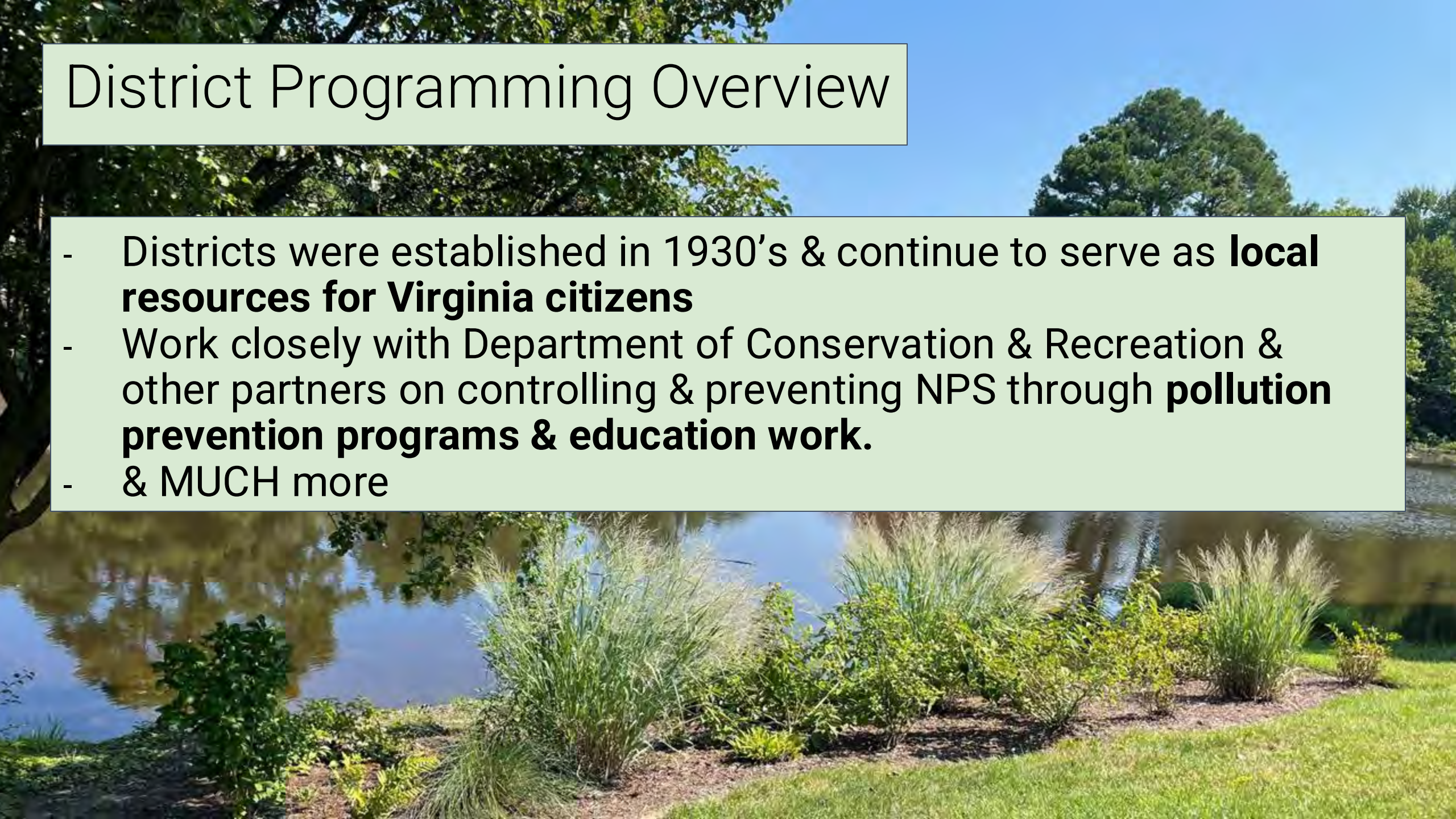
VIRGINIA'S SWCD SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

We work with the people who work the land.

Promoting Conservation Across Virginia's Landscapes

District Programming Overview

- Districts were established in 1930’s & continue to serve as **local resources for Virginia citizens**
- Work closely with Department of Conservation & Recreation & other partners on controlling & preventing NPS through **pollution prevention programs & education work.**
- & MUCH more



Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Role:

Code of Virginia establishes SWCDs as the local delivery service for programs that include:

(i) Provision of technical assistance to advance conservation management services
(ii) Delivery of educational initiatives targeted at youth and adult groups to further awareness and understanding of water quality issues and solutions
(iii) Promotion of incentives to encourage voluntary actions by landowners and managers in order to minimize nonpoint source pollution contributions to state waters


Trivia
Best Management Practice Edition


STORMWATER
CONSERVATION PRACTICE


ORGANIC
SOFT RED
WINTER WHEAT

Virginia Agricultural Cost Share Program (VACS)

VIRGINIA'S SWCD SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

GOOD THINGS HAPPEN

UNDER THE COVERS

70 + Conservation Practices for agricultural operations

Improve & protect water quality in addition to providing farm production benefits

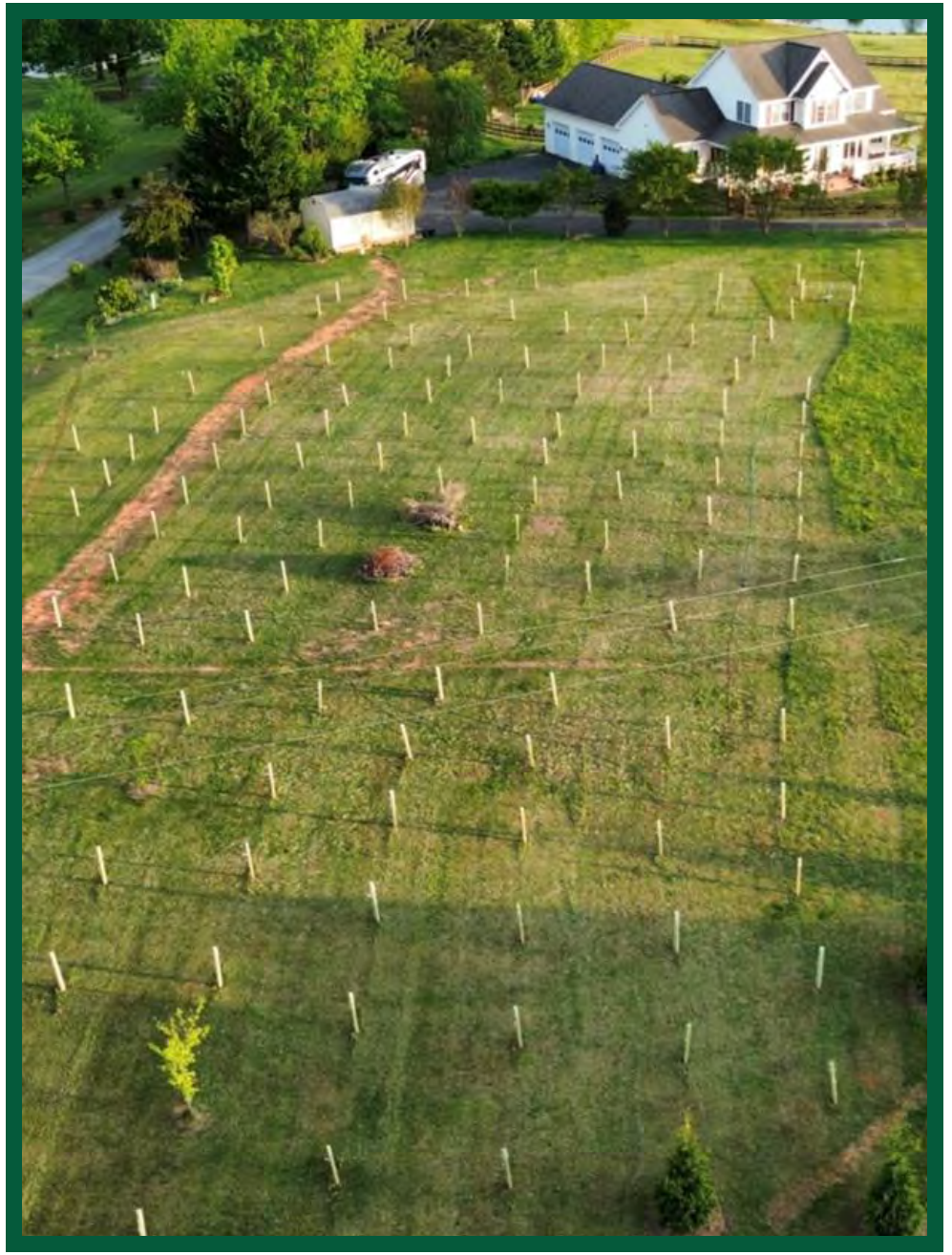
Virginia Conservation Assistance Program

Presented by Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

10 YEARS of VCAP

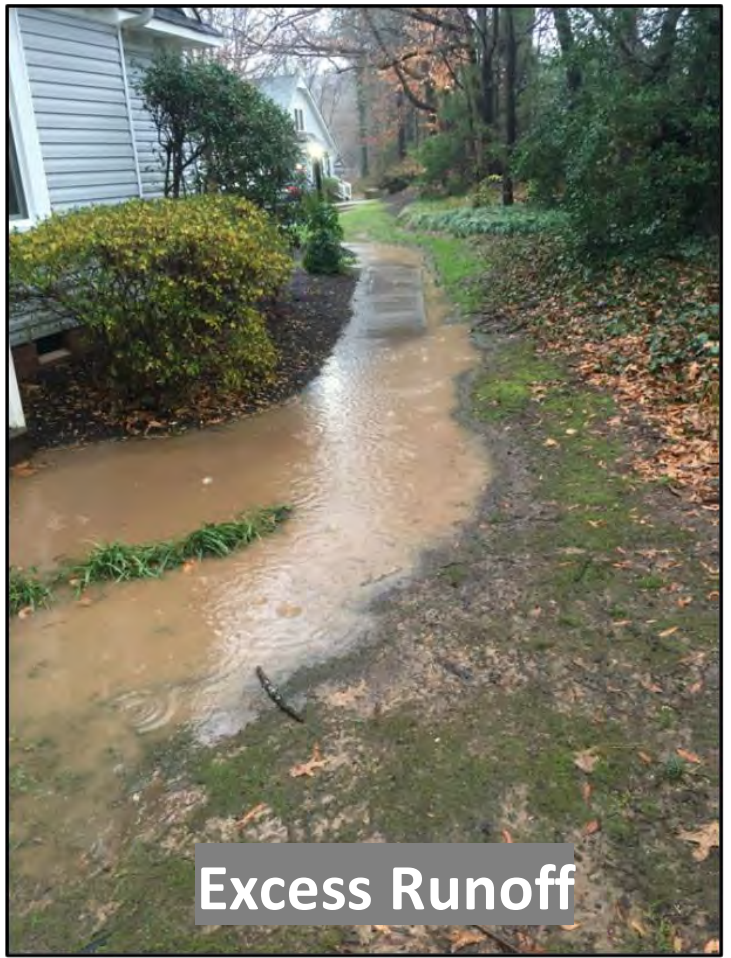
WHAT IS VCAP?

The Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) is a non-agricultural cost-share program that provides financial incentives and technical and educational assistance to property owners installing eligible Best Management Practices (BMPs) in Virginia's participating Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs).



How can VCAP help?

- **Restore** problem areas on properties
- **Treat** stormwater runoff
- **Stabilize** drainage areas
- **Conserve** water within a landscape
- **Control** & **minimize** erosion
- **Promote** wildlife habitat
- **Revegetate** bare slopes
- **Improve** riparian buffer areas
- Help Virginia meet WIP III Goals



ELIGIBLE PRACTICES

Conservation Landscaping

Living Shoreline

Green Roof

Rain Garden

Permeable Pavement

Infiltration

Vegetated Stormwater Conveyance

Dry Well

Constructed Wetland

Bioretention

Rainwater Harvesting

Impervious Surface Removal

Virginia Conservation Assistance Program

Presented by Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

VCAP BMP Suite

*Cost-share is not a guarantee. Please speak to your local district for further information.

VIRGINIA'S SWCD SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Practice Type	Photo	Space Needed	Cost-share eligibility*	Maintenance Burden	Benefits
Impervious Surface Removal		Low	$5 per SF up to $20,000	Low	Groundwater Recharge Runoff Reduced Contaminants Reduced Localized Flood Control
Demolition, disposal, & remediation of hardscape materials such as asphalt, concrete, brick, & densely graded gravel.					
Conservation Landscaping		Medium to High	80% up to $7,000	Low to Medium	Increased Property Values Increased Wildlife Habitats Air Quality Improved Runoff Reduced
Establishment of native plantings to provide ground cover & soil stabilization.					
Rain Garden		Low to Medium	80% up to $7,000	Low to Medium	Runoff Reduced Groundwater Recharge Localized Flood Control Increased Wildlife Habitats
Shallow, landscaped depression that temporarily ponds runoff & encourages it to seep into the soil.					
Dry Well		Low to Medium	80% up to $7,000	Low to Medium	Groundwater Recharge Contaminants Reduced Runoff Reduced Localized Flood Control
Underground storage facility that temporarily stores stormwater runoff until it can seep into the surrounding soil.					
Constructed Wetland		High	80% up to $20,000	Medium to High	Improved Air Quality Increased Wildlife Habitats Increased Stream Health Localized Flood Control
Planted areas that includes often wet pools to store & filter runoff from roofs, driveways, & lawns.					
Vegetated Stormwater Conveyance		Medium	80% up to $20,000	Medium	Erosion Control Runoff Reduced Groundwater Recharge Contaminants Reduced
Enhance existing channels to safely transport stormwater while preventing erosion & improving water quality.					

Choosing the right practice depends on the landowner's goals, specific resource concern onsite, and site characteristics (space & drainage area). Full technical specifications are available in the VCAP Manual on the VASWCD website.

Most practices qualify for an 80% cost-share rate, while some use per-unit rates up to specific practice caps. Caps range from $7,000 to $30,000 depending on complexity; for instance, highly engineered practices like bioretention carry higher caps.

Practices are maintained by the landowner over the lifespan; complex practices require a mandatory 10-year maintenance agreement, simpler BMPs offer flexible 5- or 10-year lifespans, where a longer commitment is incentivized by a higher cost-share rate, and all practices are reported to the Department of Environmental Quality for Chesapeake Bay Model crediting.

Virginia Conservation Assistance Program

Presented by Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

VCAP BMP Suite

*Cost-share is not a guarantee. Please speak to your local district for further information.

VIRGINIA'S SWCD SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Practice Type	Photo	Space Needed	Cost-share eligibility*	Maintenance Burden	Benefits
Rainwater Harvesting		Low	$4 per GAL up to $20,000	Medium	Runoff Reduced Erosion Control Contaminants Reduced Localized Flood Control
Collection and conveyance of roof runoff/rainfall into an above- or below-ground tank where it can be reused.					
Bioretention		Medium	80% up to $30,000	Medium	Increased Wildlife Habitats Groundwater Recharge Localized Flood Control Runoff Reduced
Large landscaped depression that temporarily ponds runoff and encourages it to seep into the soil.					
Infiltration		Medium	80% up to $30,000	Medium	Groundwater Recharge Erosion Control Runoff Reduced Localized Flood Control
Large storage facility that temporarily stores stormwater runoff until it can seep into the surrounding soil.					
Permeable Pavement		Low to Medium	$14 per SF up to $20,000	Medium	Groundwater Recharge Runoff Reduced Localized Flood Control Contaminants Reduced
Alternative surfaces that allow runoff to filter through into an underlying reservoir layer.					
Green Roof		Low	$20 per SF up to $30,000	High	Air Quality Improved Groundwater Recharge Contaminants Reduced Runoff Reduced
Living layer of plants atop a roof or other raised surface that soaks up the rain where it falls.					
Living Shorelines		Medium	80% up to $30,000	Medium to High	Stream Health Improved Increased Property Values Erosion Control Increased Wildlife Habitats
Stabilization techniques that use natural elements to reduce erosion, improve water quality, and protects habitats.					

Choosing the right practice depends on the landowner's goals, specific resource concern onsite, and site characteristics (space & drainage area). Full technical specifications are available in the VCAP Manual on the VASWCD website.

Most practices qualify for an 80% cost-share rate, while some use per-unit rates up to specific practice caps. Caps range from $7,000 to $30,000 depending on complexity; for instance, highly engineered practices like bioretention carry higher caps.

Practices are maintained by the landowner over the lifespan; complex practices require a mandatory 10-year maintenance agreement, simpler BMPs offer flexible 5- or 10-year lifespans, where a longer commitment is incentivized by a higher cost-share rate, and all practices are reported to the Department of Environmental Quality for Chesapeake Bay Model crediting.

Impervious Surface Removal is the demolition and disposal of impervious surfaces and includes remediation of the subsoil, adding topsoil, and vegetation establishment or other best management practice. Impervious surfaces include hardscape and pavement materials such as asphalt, concrete, brick, and densely graded stone aggregate.

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Northern Neck SWCD 2025

DURING

AFTER

Northern Neck SWCD 2025

Dry Well

Rainwater Harvesting

Permeable Pavement

Continues to support VCAP implementation statewide. Include Start Up Payment Program in 11 participating SWCDs

Continues to offer technical assistance support as well as funding for advanced training, & special projects

Increased accessibility to VCAP for participants within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed; Supported CAS VCAP Module efforts

Over $175,000 Since program inception, including MVP-area practices that helped build program capacity & reach

DCR
Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation

DEQ
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
NFWF

Virginia Environmental Endowment

Cumulative Program Achievements

Achievements

1,436
Projects Approved

$12.3M
in Cost-share Obligated

$1.2M
in Technical Assistance to SWCDs

$10.1M
in Landowner Contributions

Since 2016 program inception through March 2026

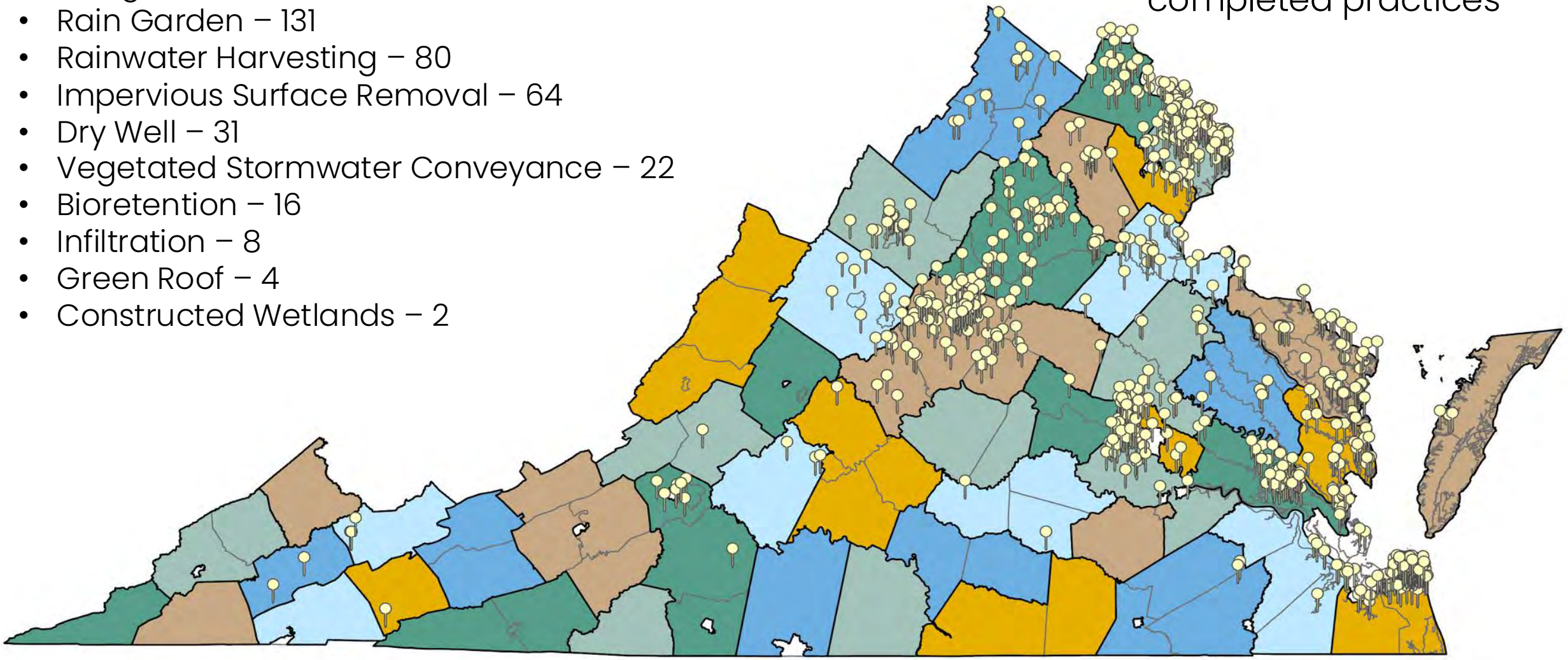
Overall Program Growth

Since 2016 program inception through March 2026; sustained funding began

VCAP by the BMPs:

- Conservation Landscaping – 581
- Permeable Pavement – 349
- Living Shoreline – 148
- Rain Garden – 131
- Rainwater Harvesting – 80
- Impervious Surface Removal – 64
- Dry Well – 31
- Vegetated Stormwater Conveyance – 22
- Bioretention – 16
- Infiltration – 8
- Green Roof – 4
- Constructed Wetlands – 2

30 of Virginia's 47 SWCDs are home to in-lifespan VCAP BMPs, totaling **1,256** completed practices



Since 2016 program inception through March 2026; sustained funding began

SWCD Efforts

And much more…

Dominion Energy

ENVIROTHON

Presented by Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Dr. Kendall Tyree
Executive Director
Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Kendall.Tyree@vaswcd.org
804-559-0324

ADVANCING MARKETS FOR PRODUCERS (AMP): ALLIANCE TO ADVANCE CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

DR. THOMAS L. THOMPSON
ASSOCIATE DEAN
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES, VIRGINIA TECH

Alliance to Advance Climate-Smart Agriculture

Virginia Tech
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

USDA ADVANCING MARKETS FOR PRODUCERS (AMP) Initiative

- First announced in February 2022 under USDA Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities – ***Rebranded in April 2025 to AMP***

Key Aspects of the AMP Initiative:

- **Focus on Conservation and Profitability**: helps farmers implement conservation practices connecting these to market-based incentives
- **Support for producers**: grants, technical assistance, and education to lower input costs and improve returns on investment
- **"Farmer-first" Focus**: reduce administrative burden and ensure at least 65% of federal grant funds go to producers
- **Market Development**: enhance marketability for products grown using sustainable methods, creating opportunities for farmers in both domestic and international markets

Alliance to Advance Climate-Smart Agriculture

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES
VIRGINIA TECH

Alliance to Advance Climate-Smart Agriculture

- September 2023 – September 2026
  - Largest grant in history of Virginia Tech
  - One of only 10 percent of AMP projects to meet the 3 requirements to continue without revision in April 2025
  - APPROVED for a 1 year no-cost extension through September 2027
- $80M award + $18M Virginia cost-share + $2M Minnesota cost-share
  - $57.4M in producer incentives
    - 4,400 producers & 400,000+ acres
    - Arkansas, Minnesota, North Dakota, Virginia
  - $4M Livestock sub-pilot in VA and MN
    - Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans + partial practice implementation – Dairies in Minnesota and Virginia
    - Pasture Renovation Project – Virginia

Alliance to Advance Climate-Smart Agriculture

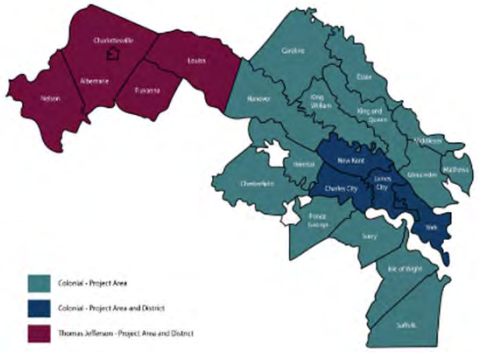
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES
VIRGINIA TECH

PARTNERS AND IMPACT IN THE COMMONWEALTH

$13.25M for General Program (additional $2M for livestock subpilot)

Two application rounds in Virginia completed so far:
397 producers enrolled in 501 contracts
- **72,000 acres/animal units**

Most popular practices:
Cover Crop (340)
Nutrient Management (590)
Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (329)
Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (345)



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DCR Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation

Virginia Cooperative Extension Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

small farm educational outreach program

THOMAS JEFFERSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT est. 1939

COLONIAL SWCD SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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PROJECT-WIDE STATUS – APRIL 2026

Enrollment Totals

2,018	439,582
Unique Producers Enrolled	Acres/Animal Units Enrolled

Total Contracts

2,520

Program Funding Status

$57M Total Program Funding

$10M

Remaining

Allocated to Arkansas, Virginia & Livestock

STATE TOTALS	MINNESOTA	NORTH DAKOTA	VIRGINIA	ARKANSAS	LIVESTOCK SUBPILOT
Unique Producers Enrolled	797	439	397	338	26 (MN) 21 (VA)
Total Contracts	1085	582	501	352	47
Acres/Animal Units Enrolled	153,943	124,274	71,960	60,514	28,891

Current Enrollment Opportunities

Three additional enrollment periods are underway for 2026

Arkansas

Enrollment limited to new producers
Program expanded with two new counties added
Focused outreach to rice producers and Alternate Wetting & Drying (AWD)

Virginia: Statewide

Open to producers in any county
Producers can enroll in (1) practice: Grazing Management, Nutrient Management, or Pasture and Hay Planting
Maximum of 120 acres | $100 per acre

Virginia: Pasture Renovation Subpilot

Open to producers in any county
Producers must implement all (3) practices: Grazing Management, Nutrient Management, and Pasture and Hay Planting
Maximum of 50 acres | $300 per acre

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STATEWIDE

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STATEWIDE PROGRAM

Enroll up to 120 acres in **one** of the following practices:
Nutrient Management, Grazing Management, **or** Pasture and Hay Planting

$100 per acre

PASTURE RENOVATION SUBPILOT

Enroll up to 50 acres to adopt **all three** practices:
Nutrient Management, Grazing Management, and Pasture and Hay Planting

$300 per acre

Please review the eligibility and contract differences between the two options on our website before applying.

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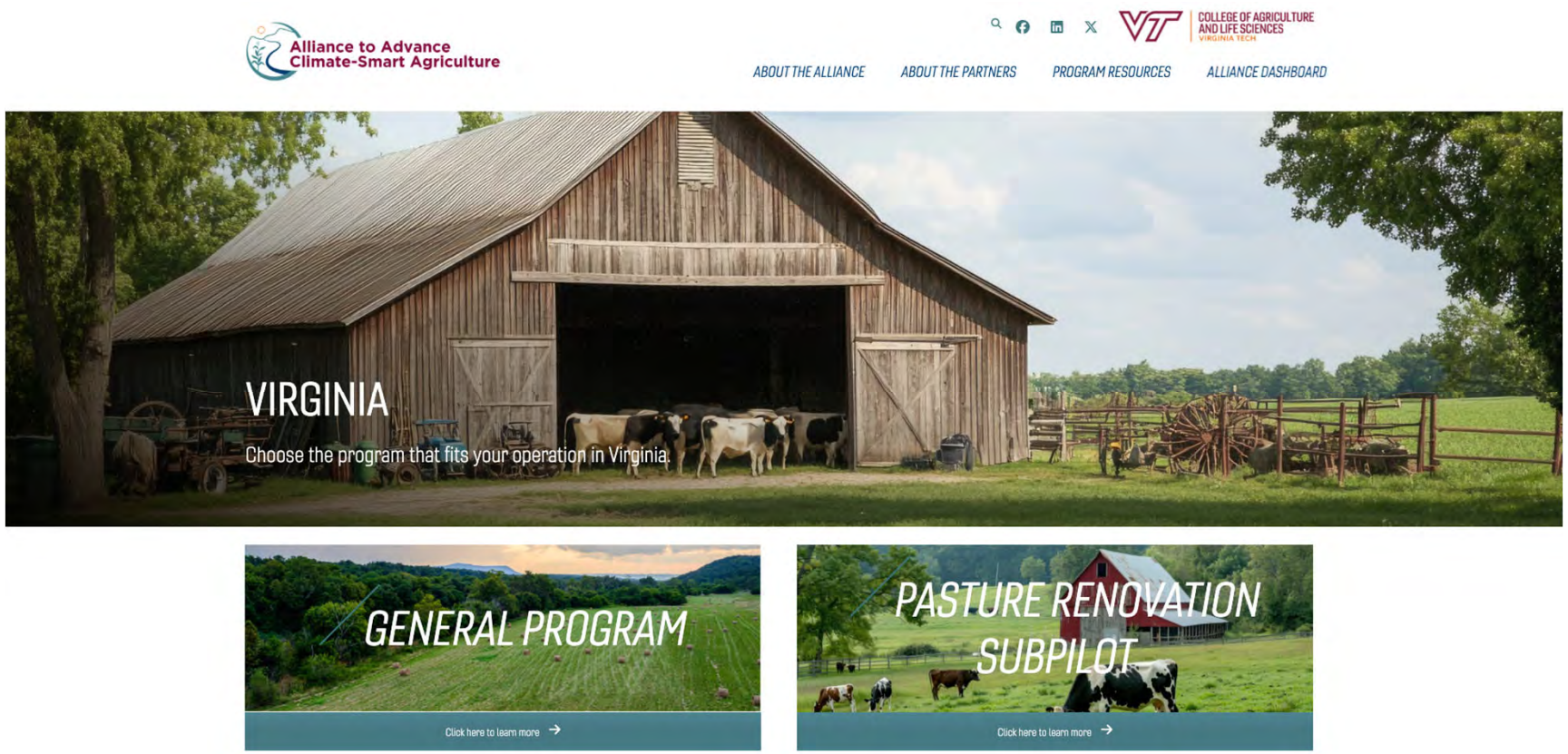
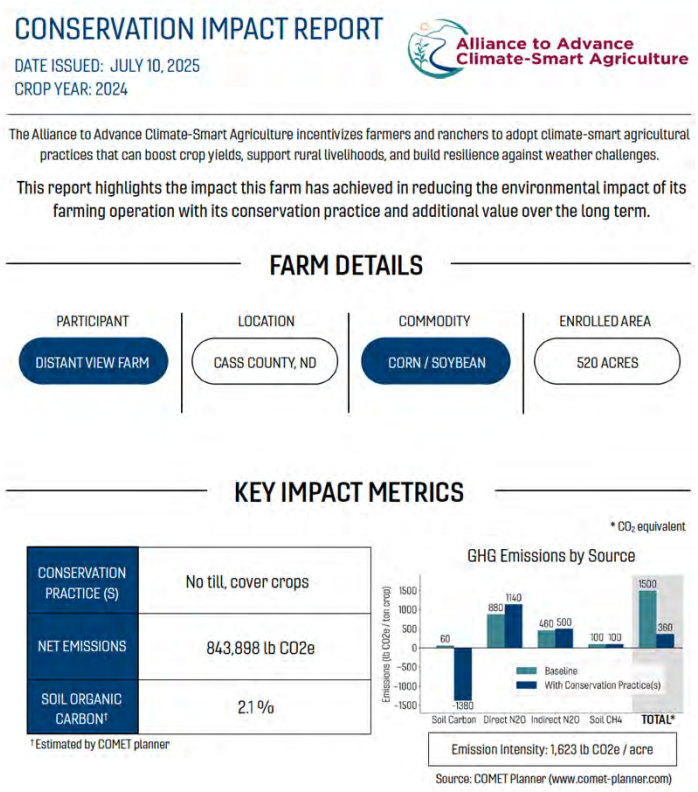


www.allianceforcsa.org/Virginia

CONSERVATION IMPACT REPORT



CONSERVATION IMPACT REPORT

DATE ISSUED: JULY 10, 2025
CROP YEAR: 2024

Alliance to Advance Climate-Smart Agriculture

The Alliance to Advance Climate-Smart Agriculture incentivizes farmers and ranchers to adopt climate-smart agricultural practices that can boost crop yields, support rural livelihoods, and build resilience against weather challenges.

This report highlights the impact this farm has achieved in reducing the environmental impact of its farming operation with its conservation practice and additional value over the long term.

FARM DETAILS

PARTICIPANT	LOCATION	COMMODITY	ENROLLED AREA
DISTANT VIEW FARM	CASS COUNTY, ND	CORN / SOYBEAN	520 ACRES

KEY IMPACT METRICS

CONSERVATION PRACTICE (S)	No till, cover crops
NET EMISSIONS	843,898 lb CO2e
SOIL ORGANIC CARBON†	2.1 %

† Estimated by COMET planner

* CO_2 equivalent

GHG Emissions by Source

Emission Intensity: 1,623 lb CO2e / acre

Source: COMET Planner (www.comet-planner.com)

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www.allianceforcsa.org
540-231-3990 allianceforcsa@vt.edu

USDA Advancing Markets for Producers Initiative

Upon completion of their contract, each producer will receive a report detailing the outcomes they have achieved as part of the program, including soil and water quality and emissions results.

The Conservation Impact Report illustrates the environmental benefits delivered by the adoption of conservation practices to support the market of the climate-smart commodity or the greenhouse gas benefits delivered.

Companion guide accompanies the report.

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MARKET OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRODUCERS

AgriCapture

Only available to rice producers in Arkansas.

AgriCapture generates additional revenue for producers enrolled in their program through carbon markets, specifically as carbon credits from improved irrigation management in rice cultivation. Arkansas producers only.

Eligibility survey is available at www.tinyurl.com/AgriCaptureOptIn.

AgSpire

AgSpire has several programs available to producers, designed to enhance productivity and boost profitability by rewarding producers for sustainable practices and environmental outcomes.

Eligibility survey is available at www.agspire.com/producers/sign-up/.

ForGround by Bayer

The Bayer Carbon Program is part of ForGround by Bayer, and provides U.S. growers opportunities to get paid for adopting cover crops and/or select conservation tillage practices that can help support soil health.

Eligibility survey is available at www.bayerforground.com.

Cargill RegenConnect

Cargill offers farmers the opportunity to earn income through adoption of regen-ag practices like cover crops, tillage intensity reduction, residue management, nutrient optimization and more.

Eligibility survey is available at regenconnect.cargill.com/ot/en/home.

www.allianceforcsa.org/market-opportunities

VT Agronomy Research Team

Ryan Stewart, Ph.D.
Professor

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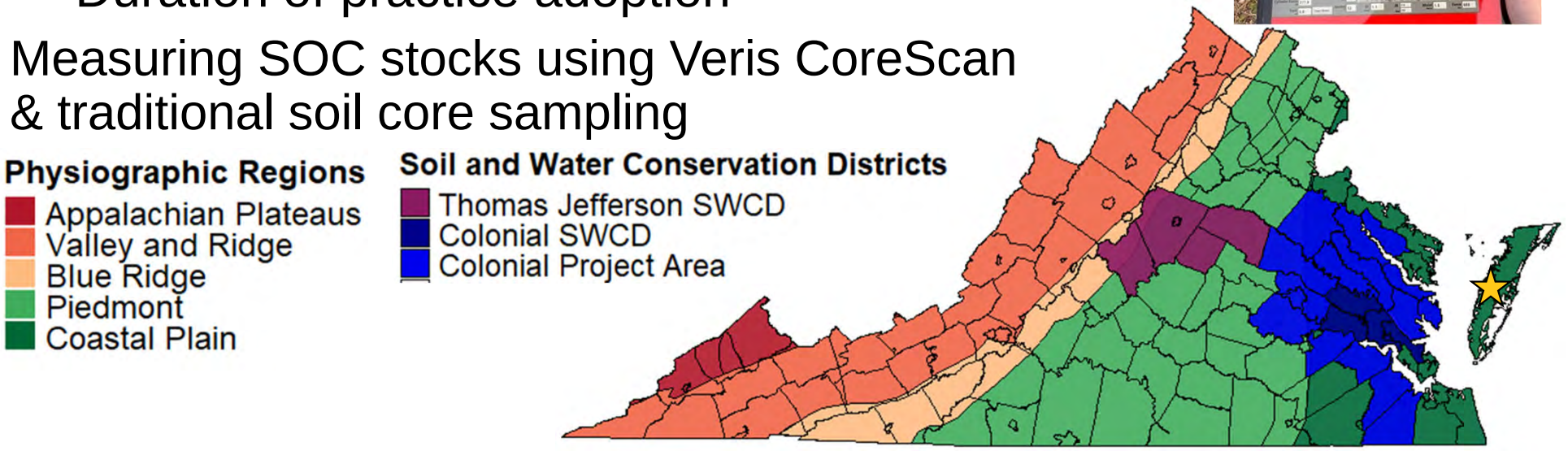
SCHOOL OF PLANT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
VIRGINIA TECH

Joseph Haymaker, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Associate

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
EASTERN SHORE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER
VIRGINIA TECH

Evaluating Management Effects on Soil Organic Carbon Across Virginia

- Paired field study
  - Cover-cropped vs. Non-cover-cropped
  - Tilled vs. No-till
  - Pasture vs. Row crops
  - Duration of practice adoption
- Measuring SOC stocks using Veris CoreScan & traditional soil core sampling



CoreScan™ Sensor Technology

Sand-Silt-Clay
(Soil EC)

Soil Moisture
(100Mhz
capacitance)

Soil Compaction,
bulk density
(Force sensor)

Soil OM/C
(Vis-NIR optical)

CoreScan Mapping Progress

- Fields mapped: 40 (3 pastures)
- Total area: 1,644 acres
- Unique sample points: 2,368

Challenges

- Soil moisture must be high enough for probe insertion
- But dry enough to support equipment traffic
- Narrow field window to meet both conditions

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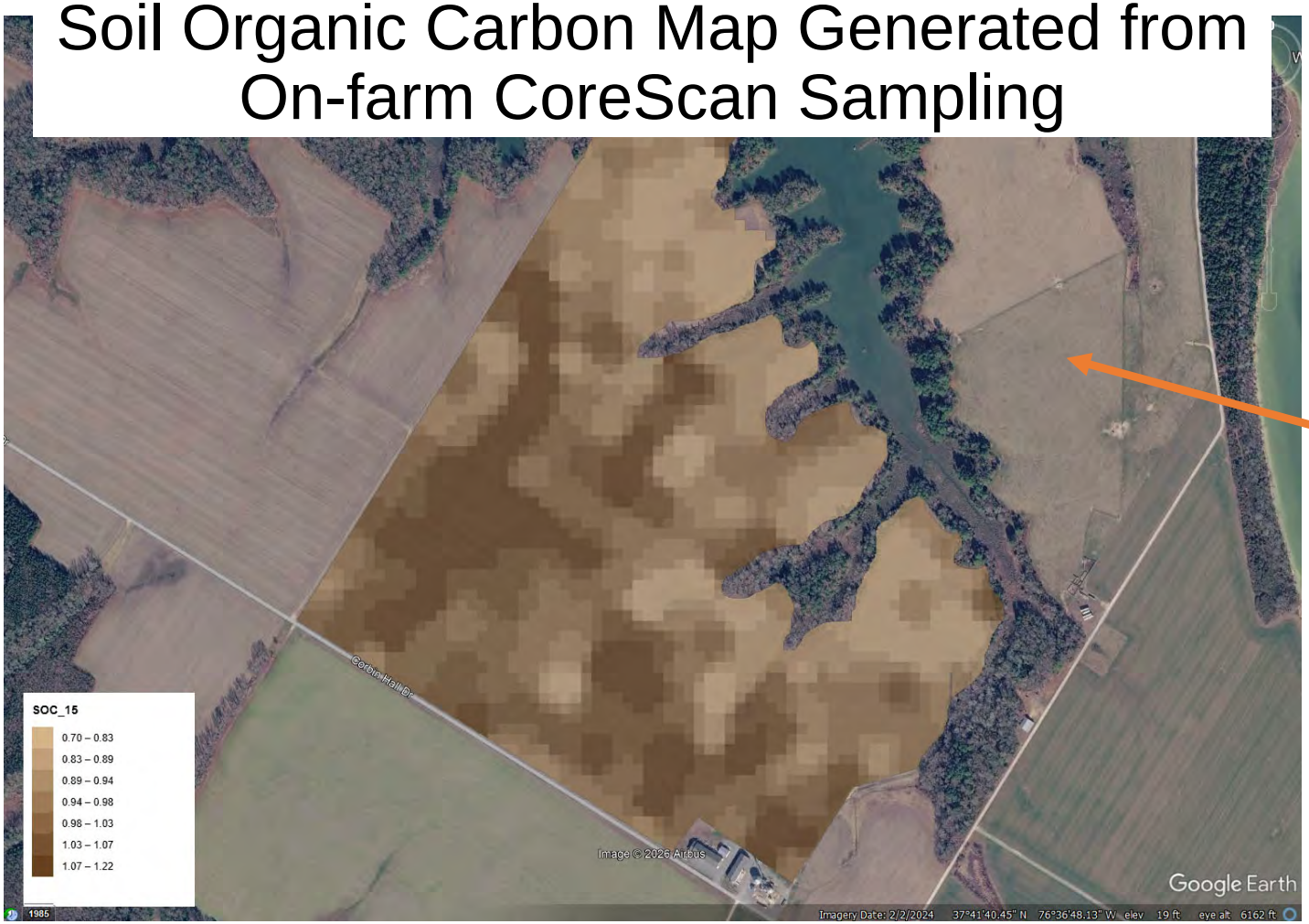
Soil Organic Carbon Map Generated from On-farm CoreScan Sampling



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INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL (IAC)

KATIE LAMBIASI
NATURAL RESOURCE ADMINISTRATIVE

VIRGINIA UMBRELLA AGREEMENT

VIRGINIA NRCS X INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL
EST 1987

WWW.INDIANAG.ORG

IAC Mission

TO PROVIDE A UNIFIED EFFORT TO PROMOTE CHANGE IN INDIAN AGRICULTURE FOR THE BENEFIT OF INDIAN PEOPLE

IAC Overview

Founded in 1987, IAC was established to pursue and promote the conservation, development, and use of our agricultural resources for the benefit of American Indians and Alaska Natives. To achieve this, IAC's programmatic offerings have expanded over nearly four decades to include the following:

- Legal and policy development
- USDA technical assistance
- Natural resources management
- Domestic and international marketing support
- Regenerative financing assistance
- Native youth in food and agriculture leadership development

Informed by the trade routes and food systems that existed before colonization, IAC works to dismantle systemic inequities that create barriers to Tribal governance, ownership, and management of agriculture resources for the betterment of our people.

Core Purpose

Virginia Umbrella Agreement

Strengthen meaningful engagement with Tribal communities and producers
Increase awareness of conservation resources and funding opportunities
Improve access to technical assistance
Ensure all efforts respect Tribal priorities, sovereignty, and cultural practices

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Breakdown of Deliverables and Progress Framework

Deliverable 1: Engagement and Resource Sharing

The first deliverable focuses on building relationships and increasing awareness of NRCS programs among Tribes and Tribal producers.

Subtask 1.A: Identifying Engagement Opportunities

Efforts are centered on relationship-building and understanding community needs. This includes identifying opportunities for meetings and on-site visits where NRCS programs—such as the Conservation Innovation Grants program—can be introduced in a way that aligns with Tribal operations.

Subtask 1.B: Outreach and Event Participation

Outreach activities include participation in 1–2 relevant events annually, such as those focused on Tribal affairs, agriculture, or natural resources.

Subtask 1.C: Foundation for Future Gatherings

Relationship-building efforts are intended to support future in-person events, including potential summits or collaborative forums hosted in partnership with NRCS.

Breakdown of Deliverables and Progress Framework

Deliverable 2: Facilitating Connections with NRCS

The second deliverable focuses on creating direct pathways between Tribal producers and NRCS staff.

Subtask 2.A: Relationship Development and Trust Building

Engagement is intentionally paced to build trust, ensuring that introductions between Tribal producers and NRCS staff are meaningful and productive.

Subtask 2.B: Coordinated Introductions

Introductions may take place through multiple channels, including email, phone, virtual meetings, office visits, and in-person engagements at Tribal locations.

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

PROGRESS TO DATE

Monacan Nation Engagement

- Initial engagement began at the United South & Eastern Tribes Best Practices Conference in Nashville (July 2025), establishing first connection with the Monacan Indian Nation
- Follow-up coordination initiated via email, leading to the first on-site visit in August 2025 with John Pierce
    - Focus: relationship building and understanding Tribal priorities
- Continued engagement through consistent communication
    - Email, phone calls, and additional site visits
- January 2026: Site visit with Dr. Martinez
    - Reviewed newly acquired land at Laurel Cliff
    - Discussed planned uses:
        - Agricultural production
        - Timber management
        - Support for Monacan Nation Food Bank
- Coordination meeting at the Rustburg Field Office
    - Participants: John Pierce and John Womack
    - Programs discussed:
        - Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
        - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
        - Additional short-term contract opportunities aligned with Tribal goals
- March 2026: Attended No-Till VAntage Conference in Harrisonburg
    - Strengthened partnerships with Virginia-based conservation and agriculture stakeholders
- Provided direct, hands-on technical assistance
    - Supported tarp installation for the Nation's first crop production site
- Leadership engagement and next steps
    - Chief Shields has expressed interest in entering into a contract with the Natural Resources Conservation Service for fiscal year 27.

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

PROGRESS TO DATE

Upper Mattaponi Tribe Engagement

- Initial connection established at the United South & Eastern Tribes Best Practices Conference in Nashville (July 2025)
  - Desiree Dyer visited exhibitor booth
  - Shared contact information for the Tribe's Agriculture Department
- Follow-up engagement initiated through leadership coordination
  - Mackenzie facilitated initial call
  - Participants: Jennifer and Katelyn
  - Focus: identifying agricultural resource concerns and long-term goals
- November 2025: First on-site visit with the Upper Mattaponi Tribe
  - Met with Agriculture Department team and Desiree Dyer
  - Conducted tour of current agricultural operations
  - Gained insight into existing infrastructure and priorities
- January 2026: Follow-up site visit with key partners
  - Participants included Dr. Martinez, Leann Van Nort, and Caroline Lancaster
  - Post-tour discussion focused on:
    - Resource concerns identified by the Tribe
    - Alignment with Natural Resources Conservation Service programs and support opportunities
- March 2026: Continued technical assistance and planning
  - Met with Jennifer and Joanie
  - Discussed NRCS application processes
  - Supported application for Rural Advancement Foundation International Beginner Farmer Grant
  - Assisted with development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the Agriculture Department
- Ongoing collaboration and leadership role
  - Upper Mattaponi Tribe will serve as host for the Eastern Summit
  - Planned field visit to their agricultural site as part of the summit
- Continued engagement
  - Regular communication through emails, check-in calls, and additional site visits

NRCS Engagement & Outreach

- August 2025: Initial coordination with John Womack at the Natural Resources Conservation Service State Office in Richmond
  - Focus areas:
    - Government-to-government engagement framework
    - Trust-building with Tribal Nations
    - Defining how IAC supports and bridges communication between NRCS and Tribes
- August 2025: Field office engagement in Tappahannock
  - Met with Leann Van Nort
  - Introduced to local field staff
  - Strengthened regional coordination and communication channels
- Ongoing coordination
  - Regular connection calls with Dr. Martinez
  - Continued collaboration with NRCS staff including John Womack and Leann Van Nort
  - Ensuring alignment between Tribal needs and NRCS program delivery
- Outreach and producer engagement
  - Tabled at the Virginia Biological Farming Conference
    - Connected with Tribal producers Laura Walker and David Walker of the Echota Cherokee Tribe of Alabama
    - Producers recently inherited 200+ acres in Winchester
    - Site visit completed; connected with appropriate NRCS field staff
    - Exploring program opportunities with a projected timeline of 2027 following feasibility study
- Broader Tribal outreach efforts
  - Tabled at USET Impact Week in Arlington
  - Distributed NRCS program materials including:
    - Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
    - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
    - New and Beginning Farmer resources
  - Shared IAC outreach and engagement materials
- Upcoming coordination and planning
  - Currently planning the Eastern Regional Summit (August 18–19) in Richmond
  - In partnership with Working Effectively with American Indians (WEWAI) Training
  - Summit will focus on strengthening Tribal-NRCS relationships and advancing conservation collaboration

Contact Information:

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Thank you!

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