

Soil Health Funding Opportunities | 2022

Maine

- Federal Programs - NRCS (EQIP, CSP etc.) (new soil health practice - reach out to local NRCS office to request participation)
- MFT/MOFGA - funding for soil health workshops and technical assistance coming in 2022
- New state Healthy Soils Program authorized by legislature in 2021 - currently unfunded, state soil scientist being hired to run program. Funding request anticipated in next legislative session.

Maryland

- Maryland Agricultural Cost-Share- 32 eligible [conservation practices](#), including structural practices (riparian buffers, stream fencing, and waste storage facilities) and management practices. Cost-share 65-87.5%, up to 150k, or \$ per acre.
- MDA: Cover Crop + and Healthy Soils Grants. Coming Soon!
- NRCS- EQIP, Conservation Stewardship Program



Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Systems

- Grain
- Specialty Crop
- Grazing



Apply at your local NRCS office

Practices

- Soil Health
- Climate Smart
- EQIP & CSP

Technical + Financial Assistance



*Partners: Chesapeake Bay Foundation ~ The Hatcher Group
Institute for Energy & Environmental Research ~ Maryland Dept of Agriculture*



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Pennsylvania

This section covers state programs - REAP and CEG; private sector programs; federal programs - EQIP, CSP, CIC; agroforestry practices and opportunities expanding in the state; new opportunities on the horizon - ARPA, RGGI, 23 Farm Bill; and some existing programs we'd like to see amended or adopted here in the Commonwealth!

[REAP state tax credit program](#)

- \$13M per year, now included in the PA Farm Bill
- Approved by state legislature 11 years ago
- Expanded in 2020 to include most soil health practices at 75% and 90% cost share
- Sponsor option, as some don't have tax liability

[Conservation Excellence Grants - CEG](#)

- Created by state legislature in 2019 to target conservation to Chesapeake Bay counties
- Reimbursable grants capped at \$250K for 7 counties: Lancaster, York, Bedford, Cumberland, Centre, Franklin, Lebanon—could expand to 16 other Chesapeake Bay counties
- Includes many soil health practices, monitoring and assessments
- Often combined with other grants, loan or tax programs

[Turkey Hill Clean Water Partnership](#)

Partnership between Alliance for Chesapeake Bay and Turkey Hill

- Private sector sets the rules and offers incentives
- Public/private grant funding got the program going
- Should be replicable in other supply chains
- Pasa's new NFWF-funded [Dairy Grazing Project](#) with Center for Dairy Excellence, Rodale Institute, Ephrata National Bank, Origin Milk, Mad Agriculture, and Team Ag Inc. follows this model

[NRCS programs - EQIP, CSP, hybrid option](#)

- EQIP does pay for soil health measures, but sometimes these fail to compete well against large projects, and NRCS only funds 20% of applications in PA
- CSP does also, but only funds 27% of applications in PA
- Hybrid option - Conservation Incentive Contracts (CIC) may find sweet spot between the 2 programs
- Limitations of NRCS programs remain - cost share, etc

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Agroforestry practices and opportunities expanding

- Pasa's alley cropping CIG grant is testing and developing this practice in PA, hoping to open up NRCS funding as well.
- Soil Health Coalition partners [Stroud Water Research Center](#), [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#), and private consultants are promoting Silvopasture in Lancaster County.
- Grant programs to expand riparian buffers:
 - [DCNR River Conservation Grants](#)
 - [DEP Watershed Grants](#)

Potential financing on the horizon

- RGGI was accepted by regulation in PA last year, estimating \$300M/yr in funding, offsets could include cover crops, no till.
- PA and 4 other Chesapeake Bay states petitioning EPA to create >\$737M over 10 years, Ches Bay Resilient Farms Initiative, includes soil health - // to Great Lakes earmark.
- Climate-Smart Commodities Program - brand new, "small" grants up to \$5M and large grants \$5M-\$100M. Includes practice implementation, measurement, marketing.

Check out more potential state & federal funding for soil health in

[Pasa's Soil Health Policy Pathways report.](#)