



Agriculture Best Management Practices (BMPs)

The Peaks of Otter SWCD works with Bedford County agricultural producers to install best management practices through cost-share programs and provides technical assistance for installation and implementation of these practices. Participation in cost-share programs is not necessary to obtain technical service or advice about your natural resource, farm planning, or engineering concerns.

Best management practices (BMPs) are effective, practical, structural or nonstructural methods, which prevent or reduce the movement of sediment, nutrients, pesticides and other pollutants from the land to surface or ground water, or which otherwise protect water quality from potential adverse effects of agricultural activities. These practices are intended to achieve a balance between water quality protection and the production of agricultural products within natural and economic limitations.

The Conservation District administers the Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share Program for Bedford City and County. Cost-share is defined as an agreement between the property owner and the District, whereas each party agrees to share in the payment of the project. Funding for the District's cost-share program comes from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Over 50 best management practices exist to enable agriculture producers to enhance their operations, promoting clean water and soil conservation. By following best management practices, agricultural producers can enhance the productivity of their soils for crop and livestock production, enhance wildlife habitat, and help to conserve the natural resources that their operations depend upon for economic viability.

Cost-share Amounts

75% cost-share is available for many conservation practices

Incentive payments and State tax credits are available for other practices

Available Best Management Practices

Some of the most popular practices are used for:

- Controlling soil erosion
- Limiting livestock access to streams and other water bodies
- Developing livestock drinking water sources
- Restoring riparian areas
- Planting cover crops
- Managing pastures through rotational grazing
- Managing nutrients and animal waste
- Conversion of cropland to permanent cover
- Tree planting

