

**A New
Conservation
Buffer
Program
for You.**



Maryland's Conservation Buffer Initiative

Applications Accepted January 11 - February 5, 2021

Introducing Maryland's **Conservation Buffer Initiative**. This pilot program offers a new funding option for farmers who want to plant streamside buffers on their farms to protect water quality.

You talked, we listened. Maryland's Conservation Buffer Initiative includes many features that farmers have been asking for including attractive incentive payments, a buffer option for field ditches, more flexible site management, and shorter contract terms.

Three types of buffers are eligible for funding and free technical assistance from soil conservation districts: **riparian forest buffers**, **grass buffers** planted next to waterways *or* field ditches, and **watercourse access control areas** adjacent to pastures. *Here's how it works:*

- Farmers receive a one-time payment for enrolled land.
- Payment rates range from \$500/acre for an existing grass buffer to a maximum of \$3,500/acre to install a riparian forest buffer with fencing.
- Mowing and hay harvesting are allowed; nutrient applications are not.
- Contracts are for 5 or 10 years.
- All work must be completed by June 30, 2022

How to Apply for our Grants

You'll find everything you need on our website including payment options, application forms and eligibility criteria. You can email your application or send it through the mail. Applications accepted January 11-February 5, 2021. Need help? Contact your local soil conservation district.

Go to the website: bit.ly/MDA_Buffer