

FARMERS: *Streamside Buffers Offer Both Financial and Environmental Benefits*



Maryland's 2024-2025

Conservation Buffer Initiative

Farmers & Landowners:

Turn marginal land next to streams or floodplains into a valuable asset for both your farm and local water quality.



Maryland's Conservation Buffer Initiative offers attractive incentive payments to plant trees next to streams, easy sign-up, and a full range of management options for farmers who want to improve the health of local streams and the Chesapeake Bay.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Attractive incentive payments to plant riparian forest buffers are available again this year. These payments are on top of the **\$4,000 or \$4,500** per acre that you will receive to install the buffer. These incentives include:



- A one-time, **\$1,000 per acre** signing bonus to plant a streamside forest buffer.

- Up to **\$330 per acre**, per year to help cover maintenance costs for forest buffer health during the first 5 years of the contract.
- Please apply for this program at your local soil conservation district.



To learn more 

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PRACTICE NAME	RI PRACTICE CODE	ADJACENT LAND USE	PAYMENT (NEW OR IMPROVED)	PAYMENT (EXISTING)	AGREEMENT TERM IN YEARS
Watercourse Access Control with LIVESTOCK EXCLUSION FENCING: Narrow Grass 10 to 34 ft. width	RI-4a	Pasture	\$1,500/acre	None	5
Watercourse Access Control with LIVESTOCK EXCLUSION FENCING: Grass 35 ft. + width (100 ft. maximum)	RI-5	Pasture	\$2,500/acre	None	5
Watercourse Access Control with LIVESTOCK EXCLUSION FENCING: Trees 35 ft. + width (100 ft. maximum)	RI-6	Pasture	\$4,500/acre + \$1,000/acre bonus	None	10
Grass Buffer on Watercourse Narrow 10-34 ft. width	RI-7	Cropland, Highly Erodible Land, or Hydric Soils	\$1,000/acre	\$500/acre	5
Grass Buffer on Watercourse 35 ft. + width (100 ft. maximum)	RI-8	Cropland, Highly Erodible Land, or Hydric Soils	\$2,000/acre	\$500/acre	5
Forest Buffer on Watercourse (Trees) 35 ft. + width (100 ft. maximum)	RI-10	Cropland, Highly Erodible Land, or Hydric Soils	\$4,000/acre + \$1,000/acre bonus	None	10



We're here to help.

For more information or assistance, please call 410-841-5864 or visit our website. We look forward to helping you make a positive environmental impact.

Scan the QR code with your mobile device for the latest sign-up details, or type in the web address below:



bit.ly/MDA_Buffer



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of Resource Conservation

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