

River-Friendly Landscapes for Tennessee

Best practices, funding sources, and contacts for landowners to help protect our state's precious water

We all depend on our natural waters for commerce, industry, domestic, and recreational use, but what we do on the land can affect our rivers and streams. Whether it is paving over land to build a parking lot, plowing fields or planting a lawn, when it rains or snows, soil and pollutants can “run-off” into our waterways. In the city, the pollutants can be oil, chemicals and gasoline from parking lots and roads or fertilizers and pesticides in the suburbs and in the country. Our rivers and streams support our lives and our livelihoods so it makes both economic and environmental sense to do our best to keep pollutants from running off the land and into the water.

We designed this guide to help rural landowners better understand what they can do on their own property to make it more river-friendly and in some cases, how to find help paying for it. There are many funding options available to help you. Whether you want to make a small change or a complete overhaul, there are people and organizations who can help you reduce your impact. And don't forget that environmental and economical aren't always opposites – many sustainable practices can save you money in the long term. It is possible to go green and save money at the same time!

Read more about river-friendly management practices in Tennessee now to find out the answers to these questions:

What are BMP's?

How Can I Pay For Them?

Are There Certifications for River Friendly Farms?

Who do I contact to learn more or get expert advice?

BMP's: What are they?

Best Management Practices (BMP's) are land management practices that lessen the environmental impact of an activity. There are hundreds of different BMPs that address different impacts of agriculture, and adopting even a few can often make a huge difference. In many cases, these BMP's may have economic benefits improving efficiency of operations and/or increasing production.

The NRCS has an exhaustive list of BMPs for managing crop and forest lands and raising livestock with over 170 different BMP's eligible for federal funding or cost-share through numerous USDA programs. Some of the most important BMPs for water quality are discussed briefly below, but for more detailed information, visit

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/technical/cp/ncps/?cid=nrcs143_026849 or contact your local USDA service center (see page 13 for contact info).

ATTRA, the National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service, is another good source for information on sustainable agriculture practices, and provides hundreds of free, in depth publications on virtually any agricultural topic you could imagine, from conservation easements to organic tobacco and even ostrich farming! For more information or to order one of their publications, visit www.attra.ncat.org or call 1-800-346-9140.

Cropland BMPs: Keeping nutrients and soil on your land and out of the stream

One of the biggest sources of water pollution from agriculture is nutrients and sediment moving from farm fields and lawns to nearby waterways. This is a lose-lose situation – no one wants to lose precious soil and nutrients when they could be going toward supporting a more productive crop. Luckily, there are lots of ways to help manage this problem and many of them qualify for federal cost-share programs.

- **No-till farming:** no-till farming involves the use of seed drills to plant crops without tillage. No-till farming decreases erosion, enhances moisture retention, and helps compacted soil recover to healthy conditions. In addition, this form of farming is on the rise nationwide, and there is increasing development of new machinery to facilitate no-till farming for additional crops.
- **Strip-till farming:** where no-till is not an option, strip tilling can be a good compromise between the benefits of conventional tillage and no-till. By tilling only the seedbeds, soil loss and compaction can be reduced.
- **Cover crops:** In between growing seasons, cover crops prevent erosion of fallow land, reduce runoff, and can help reduce weed pressure. In a conventional tillage system, leguminous crops can be grown and tilled into the soil to provide additional nitrogen. In a no-till or strip-till system, crop residue from cover crops can reduce weed pressure, retain moisture, and prevent erosion during the growing season, and many cover crops can also be harvested.
- **Conservation crop rotation:** crop rotations planned in a way that conserves the soil and minimizes fertilizer/pesticides/herbicides.

- Nutrient/pesticide/herbicide management: Pesticides and nutrients are major sources of pollution in rural waterways, and proper management of them is essential. Correct calculation of nutrient needs and pesticides can minimize pollution and lower costs.
- Integrated pest management (IPM) –an approach to managing pests combining biological and physical pest control strategies and targeted pesticide use to minimize the quantities of pesticides applied.
- Agrochemical handling facilities: Allow for proper storage and disposal of herbicides/pesticides and tank wash water, and reduce the chance for chemical spills.
- Precision agriculture: The rise of GPS technology now allows producers to map in-field variables such as crop yield, nutrient levels, and moisture content, so excess nutrient and water use is minimized. Fertilizer and water can be delivered in the proper amounts based on need, reducing excess nutrient runoff and saving money!
- Tile drains: Avoid tile drains wherever possible. If you must use a tile drain, consider using a denitrifying bioreactor or artificial wetland at the outlet to help absorb excess nutrients in the drain water and limit flash flooding.
- Contour farming: water runs downhill, and if you have a sloping field, farming along the contours of your landscape can help reduce erosion
- Manure management: If using manure as a fertilizer source, using a manure injector for liquid manures can reduce odors, limit impacts on air quality due to volatile gases, and reduce nutrients and pathogens in stormwater runoff. New technology has recently developed to apply this injection concept to dry manures such as poultry litter as well.
- Critical area planting: Setting aside areas at high risk for erosion can prevent migration of rills and gullies onto adjacent cropland
- Contour buffers, field borders, and strip-cropping leave grass strips along contours, field edges, or between strips of crops, helping infiltrate field runoff and minimizing erosion and nutrient pollution.
- Grassed waterways: grassed waterways balance field drainage with infiltration/erosion reduction, and can be useful for areas that flow in wet weather
- Vegetative barriers: Rows of shrubs or trees between fields can help trap runoff and reduce water and wind erosion and nutrient transport
- Crop diversity: Growing a wide range of crops on a farm can help reduce the negative impacts of monoculture crop production. Additionally, a diverse crop portfolio can help reduce economic risks from weather, pests, or market conditions.

Livestock BMPs: Healthy streams, healthy livestock

Whether you raise a few animals or a large herd, there are practices that can improve the health of both your water and your livestock. For more detailed information, visit

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/technical/cp/ncps/?cid=nrcs143_026849

or contact your local USDA service center (see page 13 for contact info).

- Rotational grazing: Moving livestock between multiple fields limits grazing pressure in any one area, reducing erosion and nutrient and pathogen pollution in runoff. Can be done with permanent fencing or temporary electric fencing.
- Exclusion fencing: Fencing livestock away from natural water sources prevents contamination by pathogens and nutrients, and helps keep stream banks intact. Cattle exclusion in combination with an alternative water source may also improve livestock health by keeping livestock off of steep, slippery banks where they could be injured.
- Alternative water sources: providing a pump-fed drinking trough or tank allows cattle to drink without needing a natural water source such as a pond or stream. Building a multi-field tank at a fence line or corner between multiple pastures can simplify rotational grazing setup when using permanent fencing. Avoiding direct watering can also have positive health impacts for livestock (preventing access to potentially contaminated water).
- Heavy-use areas: Prevent livestock from damaging soil or causing erosion when congregating at water sources, hayring, or other location using mobile hay wagons and water troughs
- Stream crossings: Using a bridge or culvert is preferable, but if a stream crossing for livestock is necessary, it should be hardened to minimize erosion. Stream crossings should also be relatively narrow, to prevent livestock from lingering in the stream.

Forestry and Nursery BMPs: Keeping our forest streams healthy

Forestry involves the use of dozens of possible management practices, of which a few are mentioned here. Recent surveys have shown wide adoption of these management practices (nearly 90% adoption for some BMPs) in Tennessee - so don't be left behind! If you are a logger or simply a landowner who is selling timber rights on your land, learn how to make sure the harvest protects your waterways.

- Riparian buffers: retaining forest along streams helps prevent erosion, maintains tree canopy to keep streams shaded (high stream temperatures are problematic for many aquatic species), and limits excess organic matter and nutrients from reaching the stream
 - A compromise between a full buffer and clear-cutting is a streamside management area with partial cutting within the riparian zone (<50% harvest) and careful sediment management
- Conservation easements to protect vulnerable forest areas.
- Properly designed forest roads and stream crossings/culverts to minimize erosion and allow fish passage

- Uneven-aged selection forestry: Clear-cutting can be extremely damaging to forest wildlife, and can increase erosion. Consider ongoing individual tree or group selection as an alternative. This method is more complex than clear-cutting but can create a more natural looking and healthier forest
- Cover crops: Use of cover crops or other sediment control measures to reduce erosion after harvesting, especially if clear-cutting.
- Agroforestry: Includes numerous co-growth activities such as using the space between tree rows for crops or pasture, growing shade crops in forests, or including species at the outer edge of a riparian buffer that generate additional income through non-timber production.

For guidance on forestry best management practices, visit

<http://www.tennessee.gov/assets/entities/agriculture/attachments/AgForBMPs.pdf> or contact your local TDEC Division of Forestry Office for more information (see contacts section).

Edge of Field/Waterway BMPs: Keeping our rural streams healthy!

Whether you own a farm, ranch, or just live in the country there are practices that help keep our rural waters healthy. See the “BMP’s: How do I Pay for Them?” section for suggestions on how to cover implementation costs! For more information, contact your local USDA service center (see page 13 for contact info), or visit

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/technical/cp/ncps/?cid=nrcs143_026849.

- Riparian buffers: Leave forested buffers of 50-100 feet between cropland or pasture and a stream or waterway whenever possible. Riparian buffers help trap sediment and filter nutrients, pathogens, and other pollutants out of edge-of-field runoff. Where forest is not practical, grass or shrub buffers (or a combination of the two) are also useful.
- Karst sinkhole treatment: In limestone rich areas, sinkholes can carry run-off to the nearest stream much more rapidly than in non-karst terrain. Leaving a protective buffer around sinkholes can be critical for maintaining local groundwater and stream water quality.
- Wetland preservation: Preserve existing wetlands between the field and the stream – these ecosystems are important for migrating birds and help control flooding, trap sediment, and filter pollutants from edge-of-field runoff.
- Wetland creation: Artificial wetlands can have the same benefits as natural ones, but are installed strategically to filter field runoff.
- Floating wetlands: Floating wetlands can be used in ponds, wastewater treatment lagoons, or other locations with highly variable water levels. They are designed to maximize root surface area in contact with the water in order to pull as many nutrients and pollutants out of a polluted water source as possible.
- Streambank and shoreline protection: Protecting the streambank from erosion helps limit sediment pollution and preserve land. Use natural methods, such as replanting with live stakes, when possible, rather than riprap or hard-armoring.

- Aquatic organism passage: Small headwater streams are often critical habitat for small fish. Using bridges or natural bottom culverts for farm or forest roads and other stream crossings provides connectivity between fragmented habitats, allowing these animals to thrive.
- Denitrifying bioreactor or wall: tile drains can deliver large quantities of nutrients to nearby streams. Denitrifying bioreactors provide carbon-based material (usually wood chips or sawdust) in an underground chamber to provide food for bacteria that break down nitrates from the drain tile system. A denitrifying wall is a similar practice, consisting of a small trench filled with wood chips that filters nitrogen rich shallow subsurface groundwater as it flows toward the nearest stream. Denitrifying bioreactors have recently been added to the NRCS list of approved conservation practices so many more funding sources are now available for funding them.
- Grade-stabilization structures: In the field or at its edge, in ditches or other drainage features, grade stabilization structures can limit erosion at gully heads, reducing erosion and preventing further migration of gullies onto agricultural land.
- Sediment basins: Edge of field basins trap edge-of-field sediment, reducing sediment delivered to nearby streams

Other Ways to Keep Our Waters Healthy

- Energy efficiency/renewable energy sources: Improving energy efficiency of your buildings or installing renewable energy sources such as solar can help save money and limit our dependence on coal. Improving efficiency or converting to renewable energy sources can be a great way to save money on electricity costs.
- Cisterns: Cisterns capture rainwater off of building roofs, reducing stormwater runoff, limiting erosion, and providing a potential alternative water source for livestock (or humans if filtered correctly).
- Invasive species control: Avoid using invasive Asian carp species (bighead, silver, black, or grass) for algae control in ponds. These are widespread invasive species, and are illegal in Tennessee (with the exception of sterile triploid grass carp). Avoid planting invasive species, as erosion control, windbreaks, or even for decorative purposes. Kudzu was once widely planted for erosion control, but now we know better! Chinese privet, autumn olive, and tree of heaven are just a few of the many invasive species threatening Tennessee's forests. Many of these species can negatively affect riparian zones and destroy native plant communities. The Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council (TNEPPC) provides a comprehensive list of invasive species in Tennessee and native alternatives. For more information visit <http://www.tneppc.org/pages/landscaping#alternatives>

BMPs: How do I pay for them?

Making positive changes isn't always cheap but many best management practices can save you money in the long term, and there are organizations and agencies that offer grants or loans to help.

Federal Grant and Cost-Share Programs

The organization Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) has compiled a comprehensive guide to federal programs relating to agriculture, forestry, and rural development. The publication can be found at <http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books/Building-Sustainable-Farms-Ranches-and-Communities> and covers 60 different programs, including the following funding sources related to preserving our waters. Talk with your local USDA office (see Contacts page) for more in depth info on how to get involved!

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
 - The ACEP provides funding for permanent or 30-year conservation easements for wetlands or grasslands on active farms. Grazing rights in easement can be retained under certain conditions. For more information visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/easements/acep/>
- Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)
 - The CIG provide a funding source for innovative techniques for conservation in conjunction with agriculture. 10% of funding is set-aside for beginning/limited resource farmers and/or Native American tribes. 50% non-federal matching funds required, open to state and local governments, non-profits, and individuals. For more information visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig/>.
- Conservation Loan and Loan Guarantee Program
 - The Conservation Loan program is administered by Farm Service Agency (FSA) and funds loans for water conservation, forest cover, permanent pasture establishment, highly erodible land protection, and conservation buffer practices. Priority is given to beginning or disadvantaged farmers/ranchers and those using loans to convert to organic/sustainable systems or to protect erodible lands. For more information visit http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/consv_loan_pf_20120306.pdf
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), and Conservation Reserve Program Transition Incentives Program (CRP TIP)
 - These three similar programs are administered by the Farm Services Agency. The CRP and CREP fund cropland to pasture/grassland conversion, riparian buffers, and other conservation practices that retire land from crop production. These "rental" programs establish a long-term conservation contract with the landowner, providing annual payments for enrolled land. The CRP TIP provides two additional annual payments to retiring farmers who sell expiring CRP land to beginning or

disadvantaged farmers/ranchers to be returned to production in an environmentally responsible manner. For more information visit

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/index>

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-enhancement/index>

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/transition-incentives/index>

- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
 - The CSP provides 5-year contracts with payments (capped at \$40,000/yr.) for conservation measures that improve soil, water, or air quality, increase biodiversity or habitat, reduce/sequester emissions, or conserve water or energy. For more information visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp/>
- Crop Insurance for Organic Producers and Whole Farm Revenue Protection
 - The Risk Management Agency (RMA) now insures organic crops at rates reflecting their higher prices, based on RMA established prices or written contracts with buyers. The RMA also provides whole farm revenue protection for farms with diversified crop production. For more information visit <http://www.rma.usda.gov/news/currentissues/organics/> and <http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/wfrp.html>
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - One of the largest USDA conservation programs, EQIP funds up to 10-year contracts (mostly 2-3 yrs.) provide up to a 75% cost share (90% for beginning/disadvantaged farmers) for a wide range of best management practices. Eligible producers must have <\$900K of adjusted gross income and payments are capped at \$450,000/producer. For more information visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/> or look at this useful guide to applying for EQIP funds, published by SARE: <http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/SARE-Project-Products/Northeast-SARE-Project-Products/Plain-Language-Guides-for-New-and-Under-Served-Producers/Applying-for-Environmental-Quality-Incentives-Program-EQIP>
- Forest Legacy Program (FLP)
 - The FLP provides a 75% federal cost-share to protect forest from conversion to non-forest use by funding conservation easements, sustainable timber production, and watershed protection projects. The state runs program and seeks landowners as participants. Landowners retain the land and sell some property rights for a conservation easement. For more information visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/aboutflp.shtml>

- Forest Stewardship Program (FSP)
 - Helps non-industrial landowners create Forest Stewardship Plans to guide sustainable management of their forestland. For more information visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/fsp.shtml>
- Organic Certification Cost Share Programs
 - The OCCSP provides grants to cover up to 75% of organic certification costs (max \$750 grant). For more information visit <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/occsp>
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
 - The RCPP provides funding for conservation practices, conservation planning, and monitoring. State and local governments, NGO's, and farmer cooperatives/producer associations are eligible for funding. This program would be most useful for a group of producers looking at addressing a conservation issue within a region or watershed in conjunction with a local municipality or NGO (such as the Cumberland River Compact if you live in the Cumberland Basin). For more information visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/farmland/rcpp/>
- Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

The REAP provides grants up to \$250,000 for energy efficiency or \$500,000 for renewable energy. The program provides up to 25% USDA cost share or up to 75% guaranteed loan. For more information visit <http://www.rd.usda.gov/reap> or your local USDA Rural Development Office.
- Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)
 - SARE grants support researchers, graduate students, and producers. Producers wishing to explore a new sustainable production method or technology can receive funds for implementation, research and demonstration. To learn about what's been funded in Tennessee visit <http://www.southernsare.org/SARE-in-Your-State/Tennessee>

To learn more about any of these programs, visit the links above or contact your local USDA Service Center (see page 13 for contacts). The Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA Rural Development, and Soil Conservation Districts (SCDs) are all invaluable resources when considering options for conservation practices. .

Tennessee Department of Agriculture funded programs

The TDA funds several agricultural conservation programs and administers some federal programs as well. For more information on funding visit <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/topic/ag-topical-financial>. Programs administered by the TDA include the following:

- Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund (ARCF)
 - The ARCF funds for producers to install best management practices for protecting water quality, working in concert with local Soil Conservation Districts. SCD's apply for funding for lands along impaired streams, so talk with your SCD today. SCD's are seeking participants, but producers can get the ball rolling by reaching out to get a project started as well. Up to 85% cost share for 303(d)-listed (polluted) streams. Visit <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/article/ag-farms-arcf> for more information. Most of the practices listed in the Best Management Practices section of this document are eligible for funding.
- Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program (TAEP)
 - The TAEP program provides funding for agricultural development, and can be a funding source for certain sustainable activities, such as crop diversification, organic production, and hay wagons, as well as dozens of other activities related to agricultural production. Call 1.800.342.8206 or visit <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/topic/ag-farms-enhancement> for more information.
- Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG)
 - A federal program administered by the TDA, The SCBG program provides funding for expansion of specialty crops, and can be a funding source for farmers looking to diversify their crop production. It covers a number of sustainable practices, such as integrated pest management, land stewardship, and energy efficiency improvements. Visit <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/topic/ag-businesses-specialty-crop> for more information.
- TDA Nonpoint Source Program, EPA Section 319
 - This federal program provides funding for best management practices, usually targeted at the scale of a small watershed (typically 10,000-50,000 acres). This funding source is not directly available to farmers, so get together with your neighbors and talk with your Soil Conservation District or a non-profit organization (such as the **Cumberland River Compact** if you live in the Cumberland Basin) to apply on your behalf. Requires a 40% non-federal funding match (which can be covered by the producer, local government, a non-profit, or some combination thereof). Visit <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/topic/ag-farms-nps> for more information.

What certifications are there for farms and farm products?

Certification Options

You don't have to go organic to be river friendly, but meeting requirements for organic certifications can be a way to add value to your product and make your sustainability efforts worthwhile economically. There are numerous certifications that you can seek, depending on your specific economic and environmental goals. Here are a few:

- **USDA Organic**

- Three classes of organic produce
 - 100% organic – all organic except water/salt
 - Organic – 95% organic, no GMOs or prohibited substances
 - Made with Organic Ingredients – 70% organic, requires identification of organic ingredients
- Organic products are monitored by a USDA accredited certifier
- Major requirements
 - No synthetic fertilizer, synthetic pesticides, or other synthetic products (some exceptions), sewage sludge, irradiation, or genetic engineering may be used.
 - Annual recertification required
 - Requirements apply to any producer with >\$5,000 in gross sales who wishes to call their produce “organic”
- Visit <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=organic-agriculture.html> or contact
National Organic Program
Miles McEvoy, Deputy Administrator
E-mail: Joan.Avila@ams.usda.gov
Phone: (202) 720-3252
Fax: (202) 205-7808

- **Certified Naturally Grown**

- Major requirements: No GMOs, synthetic chemicals, or processed foods, locally grown, small-scale (no corporate conglomerates)
- Dues: \$110/yr., w/ scholarship for new farmers CNG farming/scholarship
- Uses peer-review process by other CNG farmers for certification
- info@naturallygrown.org or 845-687-2058, cngfarming.org

- **Food Alliance**

- Food Alliance has certifications for crops, livestock, aquaculture, nursery/greenhouse production, and food handling.
- The core goals of the certification program are to:
 - Protect, conserve and enhance soil, water, wildlife habitat and biodiversity
 - Conserve energy, reduce and recycle waste
 - Reduce use of pesticides and other toxic or hazardous materials
 - Maintain transparent and traceable supply chains
 - Support safe and fair working conditions
 - Guarantee food product integrity, with no genetically engineered or artificial ingredients
 - Ensure healthy, humane animal treatment
 - Ensure continual improvement of practices
- Learn more at www.foodalliance.org or contact 503-267-4667 or info@foodalliance.org

River Friendly Farm Certification

The Cumberland River Compact is exploring the possibility of creating a certification program for farms that protect Tennessee's rivers and streams. If you would be interested in participating in such a program, please contact us at (615) 837-1151 or e-mail Alec Norman at alec.norman@cumberlandrivercompact.org.

Who do I contact to learn more or get expert advice?

If any of these management practices or funding opportunities has struck your interest, contact your local USDA office, NRCS District Conservationist, TN Ag Extension Agent, or Watershed Coordinator. All of them will be well equipped to set you up with detailed information on particular practices and help with the nitty-gritty of applications for funding!

USDA Local Service Centers

Your local USDA service center is a great source for information on any farming related subject, and reduced impact agriculture is no different. Contact your service center to learn about management practices and funding sources in greater depth than can be covered in this document!

Visit the webpage below to find your local office's contact information, or contact one of the regional offices listed below.

<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>

Jackson Area Office
235 Oil Well Road
Jackson, TN 38305-7914
Phone: (731) 668-0700
Fax: (855) 584-5848

Murfreesboro Area Office
315 John R. Rice Blvd., Ste. 175
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
Phone: (615) 893-9295
Fax: (855) 591-1282

Cookeville Area Office
900 South Walnut Ave., Room 3
Cookeville, TN 38501
Phone: (931) 528-6472
Fax: (855) 575-5635

Knoxville Area Office
9737 Cogdill Road, Suite 152C
Knoxville, TN 37932-33
Phone: (865) 671-3830
Fax: (855) 584-5852

USDA Rural Development Offices

Bobby Mack Goode, State Director
3322 West End Avenue, Suite 300
Nashville, TN 37203-1071
Voice: (615) 783-1300
Fax: (615) 783-1301

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices/tn> for full list of local offices

Tennessee Ag Extension

The University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service is a great source for technical assistance, education, and guidance on any farming needs, including sustainable or environmentally friendly farming. They have extension offices in each county!

Visit the webpage below to find your local office's contact information, or contact one of the regional offices listed below.

<https://extension.tennessee.edu/Pages/Office-Locations.aspx>

Western Region Extension

605 Airways Blvd.
Jackson, Tennessee 38301-3201
Phone: 731-425-4725
Fax: 731-425-4729

Central Region Extension

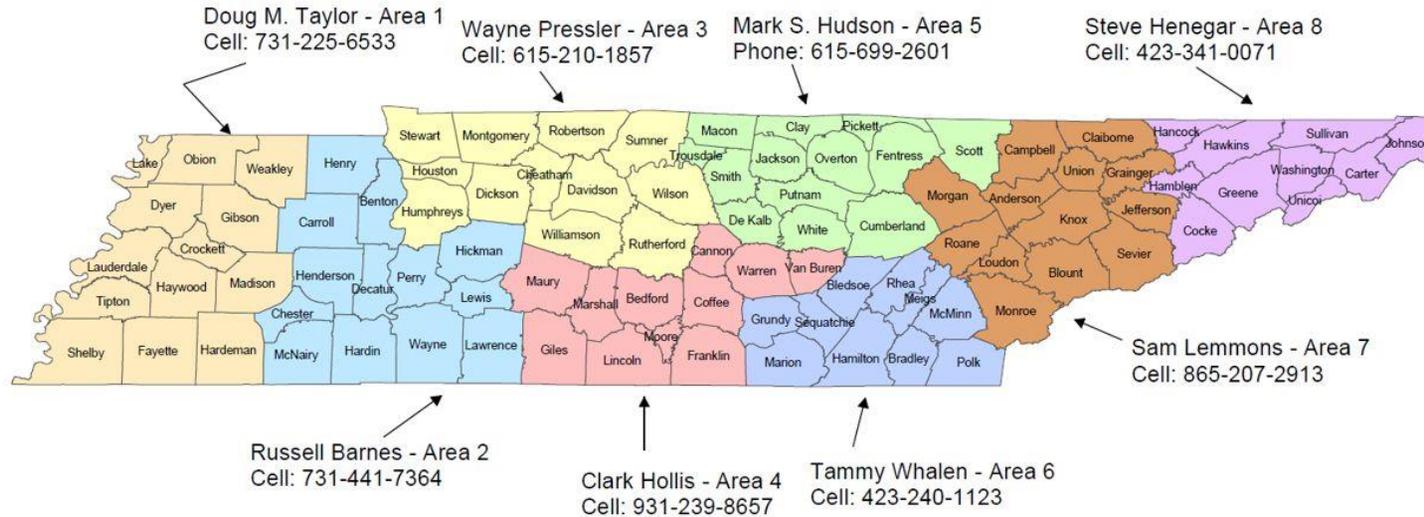
5201 Marchant Dr.
Nashville TN, 37211
Phone: 615-832-6550
Fax: 615-832-0043

Eastern Region Extension

1801 Downtown West Blvd.
Knoxville, TN 37919
Phone: 865-577-9963
Fax: 865-200-4500

Tennessee Watershed Coordinators

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture Watershed Coordinators serve as points of contact for advice or technical assistance on management practices and planning. See map below for contact info for your local watershed coordinator.



TDEC Division of Forestry Field Offices

<https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/article/ag-forests-staff> for local offices
or contact the state office in Nashville for additional information

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 40627, Melrose Station,
Nashville, TN 37204

Street Address

Ellington Ag Center - Bruer Bldg., 406 Hogan Rd.,
Nashville, TN 37220

PHONE: (615) 837-5520

The Cumberland River Compact

If you are interested in installing best management practices on your land and are interested in the support of a non-profit partner, contact us at the Cumberland River Compact to find out more about how we can help.

2 Victory Ave., Ste. 300
Nashville, TN 37213
Phone: 615-837-1151

cumberlandrivercompact.org

CUMBERLAND RIVER
COMPACT

