Best Management Practices (BMPs) 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 an enormous difference. In many cases, these BMPs can have economic benefits as well, particularly when properly implemented. The NRCS has an exhaustive list of BMPs for improving efficiency of operations and/or increasing production. The NRCS is another good source for information on sustainable farm and protecting our waters healthy. See the reverse of this brochure for funding sources to cover implementation costs.

BMPs: WHAT ARE THEY?

Cover crops: These cover crops prevent erosion of fallow land, reduce nutrient runoff and saving money.

Crop rotation: Moving stock between multiple fields planning pasture or any animal. This practice reduces weed pressure and nutrient runoff. It also helps reduce disease pressure, especially from nematodes.

Grading and grading: Moving trash from the edge of field to stabilize the flow and tile drain bed.

Irrigation: Watering crops directly to control irrigation, reduce crop water and injection.

Agroforestry: Includes a number of cover crops as a better foundation to a sustainable farm. These BMPs can help maintain soil structure and improve yields. They can also provide additional income through non-wood products.

Riparian buffers: Moving trash from the edge of field to stabilize the flow and tile drain bed.

Stream crossings: Designing wetlands and stream crossings should be designed to maintain cover and allow fish movement.

Drainage crossing: Designing wetlands and stream crossings should be designed to maintain cover and allow fish movement.

Decrease aged selection forestry: Moving trash from the edge of field to stabilize the flow and tile drain bed.

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In addition to the many federal programs available, the TDA funds several agricultural conservation programs and cooperates with some federal programs. For more info on funding for any of the programs, contact one of the regional offices.

For More Info: contact one of the regional offices.

John McClurkan, 615-837-1151 or john.mcclurkan@tn.gov.


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 www.orgs.sare.org/conserv/fin.html. It includes all USDA conservation funding sources, as well as information and links to other federal and non-federal conservation programs.


To learn more or get help, visit www.cumberlandrivercompact.org | Two Victory Avenue | Suite 300 | Nashville, TN 37210 | 615.837.1151 | john.mcclurkan@tn.gov.

The Cumberland River Compact (CRC) is also funding for the farm and landscape projects. To be included in these projects, we have the ability to fully fund certain projects within this program. We are looking for projects that need both construction, irrigation, fencing, or buffer plantings, and we are seeking 100% cost share projects but you are willing to offer a DEEPER investment in these conservation easements. (Compensation for loss of use available)

If any of these management practices or funding opportunities has struck your interest, contact your local USDA office. McClurkan, 615-837-1151 for additional information on how you can participate or get contact info for your local USDA office.

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FEDERALLY FUNDED PROGRAMS

Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund (ARCF): The ARCF is a cost-share program administered by the Farm Service Agency. Its purpose is to provide cost-share for the installation of conservation practices and to secure financial assistance for the acquisition of conservation easements. The ARCF is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act.

For More Info: contact your local USDA office. McClurkan, 615-837-1151 for additional information on how you can participate or get contact info for your local USDA office.

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

REAP: The REAP program provides cost-share for the installation of conservation practices and to secure financial assistance for the acquisition of conservation easements. The REAP program allows producers to choose from a variety of conservation practices, such as crop diversification, organic production and riparian buffer planting.

For More Info: contact your local USDA office. McClurkan, 615-837-1151 for additional information on how you can participate or get contact info for your local USDA office.