

HEALTHY SOILS COMPETITIVE FUND

Accepting Applications: January 3, 2024 - March 6, 2024



The Maryland Department of Agriculture will accept applications for its Healthy Soils Competitive Fund from **January 3-March 6, 2024**. If you have an innovative conservation idea for your farm, this program is for you! It provides financial assistance to qualifying farmers who want to adopt a range of soil health or agroforestry practices. It aims to support farmers and operators who are ineligible for other programs.



How Much Money Is Available?

This competitive grant program awards selected applicants with up to \$50,000 to support 3 years of enhanced healthy soil practices.

When Can I Apply for Your Grants?

MDA will accept applications through March 6, 2024. Grant recipients will be announced by April 30, 2024.

What Types of Projects Are Funded?

Financial assistance is available to manage conservation practices in new and innovative ways that improve soil health, yield, and profitability and capture carbon. Eligible practices include:

- Cover Crops
- Conservation Tillage
- Pasture and Hay Planting
- Conservation Cover
- Critical Area Planting
- Conservation Crop Rotation
- Nutrient Management
- Integrated Pest Management
- Prescribed Grazing
- **NEW:** Soil Carbon Amendment



Eligible Agroforestry practices include:



- Alley Cropping
- Hedgerow Planting
- Silvopasture
- Tree and Shrub Establishment
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment

Who Is Eligible for Funds?

The following individuals or groups may apply for funding. You may apply for funding for more than one conservation practice:



- Individual farmers operating in Maryland
- Groups of farmers operating in Maryland
- Individuals or organizations conducting research with farmers in Maryland

More Information

- There are no minimum or maximum acreage requirements
- Farm size is not a consideration for project selection
- Funds may not be used to cover overhead or indirect costs
- Funds may be used to:
 - ✓ Support implementation of conservation practices
 - ✓ Cover staff and administrative time for organizations that provide technical support to producers
 - ✓ Cover research costs
 - ✓ Purchase or rent equipment that supports the adoption of soil health practices



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bit.ly/MDAHealthySoil



HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM

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