



6/3/21
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALLIANCE FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AWARDED \$1 MILLION TO ACCELERATE CONSERVATION ACTION ON VIRGINIA FARMS

The funding, made possible through The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) 2021 Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants Program (INSR), will allow for the expansion of the Alliance's Agricultural Program into Virginia. In partnership with Maryland Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association (MDVA), Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (VA DCR), and Virginia's Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VA SWCDs) the Alliance will assist farmers with the development of conservation plans that prioritize installing agricultural best management practices such as: livestock exclusion from streams, riparian forest buffers, rooftop runoff controls, manure management, and nutrient management plans.

In addition to the funding awarded by NFWF, our project partners are also investing in this work to ensure success. VA DCR has committed \$1 million in match funding through the VA Agricultural Cost-Share Program and MDVA has committed an additional \$75,000 for marketing and outreach expenses.

Agriculture is an essential segment of Virginia's economy and the strain on local farmers to reduce their impact on the environment is undeniable. The Alliance's work in Virginia will enable farmers to accomplish these goals while improving local water quality and ensuring the long term sustainability of farms.

This project aims to restore water quality in Virginia's Chesapeake Bay watershed by reducing:

**18,554.95 lbs
of nitrogen**

**4,625.12 lbs of
phosphorus**

**1,714.08 tons of
sediment pollution**

"The Alliance is so excited to do this work with our partners in VA. In the years of research leading to this project, I kept hearing one thing, repeatedly. 'No one in VA is working to engage the corporate community to help make the dairy supply chain more sustainable.' Yet, this is critical to improving water quality and ensuring a better future for our families."

- Nissa Dean, Virginia State Director, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay



About the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay: Headquartered in Annapolis, MD, with offices in Lancaster, PA, Washington, D.C., and Richmond, VA, the Alliance implements local programs that connect people to their local rivers and streams. As individuals become directly involved in local restoration efforts, our programs build resiliency among our communities and landscapes to continually adapt to a changing world.

In the last 50 years, the Alliance has:

- Planted over 1 million trees
- Installed over \$10M in practices to reduce polluted stormwater runoff
- Implemented over 764 acres of on-farm best management practices
- Trained over 700 volunteer scientists to collect over 360,000 water quality data points

About Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association: is a community of dairy farm families passionate about cultivating dairy goodness and bottling fresh Maola branded milk products. Founded in 1920, the cooperative's farmers produce three billion pounds of milk a year for consumers and manufacturers worldwide. Our dairy farm families take pride in creating dairy products people crave, operating with passion and integrity, responsibly caring for our resources and providing a rewarding livelihood for our farmers and employees.

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR): coordinates and directs programs and services to prevent degradation of the Commonwealth's water quality caused by nonpoint source pollution. Statewide nonpoint source pollution control programs and services support both individual natural resource stewardship and assist local governments with resource management. These statewide programs are funded through by appropriations approved by the Governor and the General Assembly and grants from public and private funders. The funds, which support technical assistance, financial assistance, education and research, and best management practice implementation include funds from the federal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program (Section 319 of the Clean Water Act), Virginia's Water Quality Improvement fund and the Chesapeake Bay Program. These activities are targeted using a statewide system of 6th order watersheds analyzed for their potential for NPS pollution.

Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs): were established in the 1930s to develop and implement comprehensive programs and plans to conserve soil resources, control and prevent soil erosion, prevent floods and conserve, develop, utilize and dispose of water. Today, forty-seven districts serve as local resources for citizens in nearly all Virginia localities. Districts, which are political subdivisions of the state, manage conservation programs, employ staff and deliver conservation services free of charge.

Since the mid-1980s, DCR has relied heavily on the SWCD's to help deliver many programs aimed at controlling and preventing nonpoint source (NPS) pollution, often on a hydrologic unit basis. With their volunteer boards and more than 150 full and part-time technical and administrative employees, districts provide a valuable delivery system for Virginia's statewide nonpoint source pollution prevention programs.

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