



*We work with the people who work the land.*

# Cost Share Programs For Horse Farms

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# What are cost-share-able practices?

- ▶ Fencing that excludes horses (or other livestock) from a perennial stream, pond, or wetland.
- ▶ A permanent, frost free water trough placed in a field that previously had access to surface water (stream, pond, or wetland)
- ▶ Water pipeline from a well, house, or spring to the water trough
- ▶ Hardened crossings to allow horses to cross streams, but not have access to the entire stream channel or buffer





# What are not GENERALLY cost-share-able practices? (yet!)

- ▶ Sacrifice or dry lots
- ▶ Manure storage facilities
- ▶ Property line or border fencing
- ▶ Water systems not related to fencing projects keeping horses out of surface water

# What programs cover these projects?

- ▶ The Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Program
- ▶ The Ag BMP program covers these practices if your farm:
  - ▶ Breeds horses for sale
  - ▶ Raises other livestock and earns income from that operation
  - ▶ Raises crops or hay and earns income from that operation



# What programs cover these projects?

- ▶ The Loudoun County funded small and horse farm cost share program
  - Covers farms of under 5 acres
  - Covers non-breeding horse operations
  - Covers other livestock operations not deriving income from the farm





# What are some dollar amounts and percentages...and what's the catch?

- ▶ In general, we base our cost share payments on what you pay per foot out of pocket for fence and pipeline up to a maximum of \$4.44 per foot of fence, and \$3.50 per foot of water pipeline. These numbers are based on actual receipts for 1 inch pipeline and high tensile woven wire fencing
- ▶ Each water trough payment is based on up to \$3600.00 per trough.
- ▶ If you pay more than these amounts, we cover a percentage based on these maximum rates. If you pay less, then we'll pay you a percentage of what you actually pay.
- ▶ What are the percentages?
  - ▶ 75% covered by the District in the Horse and Small Farm Loudoun County Program
  - ▶ 80% in the Virginia Ag BMP Program
  - ▶ Both programs have a 10 year lifespan for projects involving a water system, and a 5 year lifespan for fencing only projects.

# How to apply?

- ▶ Call your local SWCD!
- ▶ Funding and programs vary by District. Currently Loudoun is the only District with dedicated funds for horse farms not otherwise eligible for the broader state Ag BMP Program
- ▶ The US Dept. of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) can also provide technical assistance and site visits...when the Federal government isn't shut down...



# Thank you!

► Contact:

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