

AGRICULTURAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT FY 22

FY 21 AgEP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Capitol

Clyde Bailey

Northern Panhandle

Mark Fitzsimmons

Eastern Panhandle

Floyd Kursey

Potomac Valley

Ronald Miller

Elk

Donald Burroughs

Southern

Bill Harris

Greenbrier Valley

Timothy VanReenen

Tygarts Valley

James Dean

Guyan

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Upper Ohio

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West Fork

Bill Coffindaffer

Monongahela

Chuck Cienawski

Western

Oscar Harris



West Virginia
Conservation Agency

FY22 AGRICULTURAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT

*In this
issue:*

ARTICLE: AGEP EXINGENCY	1-2
DISTRICT MAP AND CONTACTS	3
AgEP APPLICATIONS AT A GLANCE	4
PRACTICES COMPLETED	5
COMPETED BMP PHOTOGRAPHS	6

Front Cover: Summer hay cutting and bundling at cooperator David Furrow's farm along Potts Creek in the Waiteville area of Monroe County.
Photo: Mykala Hopkins of WVCA.

ARTICLE

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS HAVE FUNDING AVAILABLE TO HELP FARMERS WITH COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE AFTER FUTURE EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS



CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- West Virginia farmers impacted by future emergency situations can now seek cost-share assistance from their local conservation district to help install or repair best management practices on their farms after flooding, drought, damaging storms and other declared emergencies.

The statewide Agricultural Enhancement Program's (AgEP) Exigency Program will make cost-share assistance available for: reseeding of winter-feeding areas during abnormally muddy conditions, help with irrigating crops when water is in limited supply, supplying water to livestock during drought conditions, temporary fencing, high tunnel and greenhouse repair, and establishing cover crops following drought.

The new exigency program went into effect on July 1. The decision to award cost-share assistance to a cooperator will be made by a conservation district's supervisors.

Past events that impacted cooperators and their farming operations, such as muddy conditions and later drought in 2019, led to discussion about how to be proactive in responding to emergencies, said Russell Young, conservation specialist and lead for the WVCA's Agricultural Enhancement Program.

The thinking was "to really start brainstorming all the ideas so when these events do happen, we've already thought about them instead of retroactively going back and saying, 'What can we do now?'" Young said. "Let's think about it now and let's get it in place so that we can just quickly deploy measures to assist cooperators."

A conservation district can decide to offer the AgEP Exigency Program when an emergency has been declared, either by a presidential disaster declaration, governor-declared state of emergency, the recommendation of the state Commissioner of Agriculture, the recommendation of either a county or state emergency board of the USDA-Farm Service Agency, or at least a "D1" moderate drought designation by the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Continued on next page →

02 | Annual Report 2022



If at least one county within the district has an emergency declared, conservation district supervisors could choose to offer the cost-share assistance to cooperators from any county within the district that have been impacted by the declared event.

Cost-share items available for reseeding winter-feeding areas could include seed and a seeder rental fee.

| Items eligible for irrigating crops include: a portable water tank, water pump, portable pipeline, drip irrigation line, irrigation timer and more.

| For water for livestock: portable watering troughs, water tanks, portable pipeline, pumps and more.

| For temporary fencing: polywire, high tensile wire, temporary electric net fence, insulators, tighteners, staples, T-posts, corner bracing materials, wooden posts, fence chargers/energizers, ground rods, connectors and more.

| For high tunnel and greenhouse repair: plastic repair kit, plastic repair tape, new plastic film, structural components, glazing materials, baseboards, doors, hardware and fans and ventilation.

| For establishing cover crop: cover crop seed and a seeder rental fee.

A statewide subcommittee was formed in 2021 and met regularly in early 2022 to consider the exigency program for the state's 14 conservation districts. Five conservation district supervisors joined West Virginia Conservation Agency staff and representatives from the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, the USDA-Farm Service Agency and the state Division of Forestry in crafting the program.

WVCA Conservation Specialist Sigrid Teets organized the Friday meetings and said it was important to work through a subcommittee because it took time and plenty of discussion to go into detail on each best management practice, the site criteria, and materials available for cost share.

"What we ended up with is a really good product," Young said.

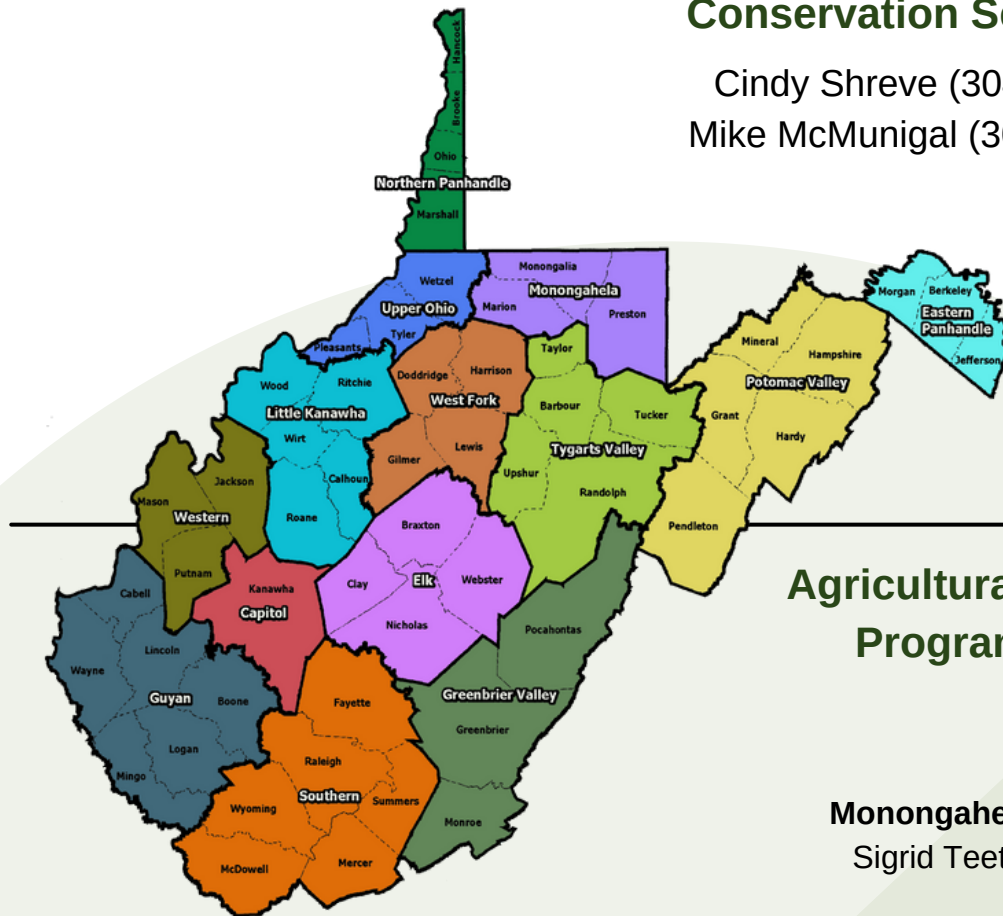


DISTRICT MAP AND CONTACTS

Conservation Services Managers

Cindy Shreve (304) 538-7581 (North)

Mike McMunigal (304) 645-6173 (South)



Agricultural Enhancement Program Field Staff

Monongahela and West Fork

Sigrid Teets (681) 313-0826

Northern Panhandle and Upper Ohio

Jennifer Kile (304) 590-6095

Potomac Valley

Ben Heavner
(304) 538-7581

Southern

Kenny Maiolo (304) 253-0261

Tygarts Valley

Micah Cunningham (304) 993-6224

Western

Anthony Winters (304) 539-0663

Capitol and Elk

Dylan Johnson (304) 807-5256

Little Kanawha

Mikayla Hayes (304) 541-5685

Eastern Panhandle

Barbie Elliott and Amy Henry
(304) 263-4376

Greenbrier Valley

Barry Level (304) 645-6173

Guyan

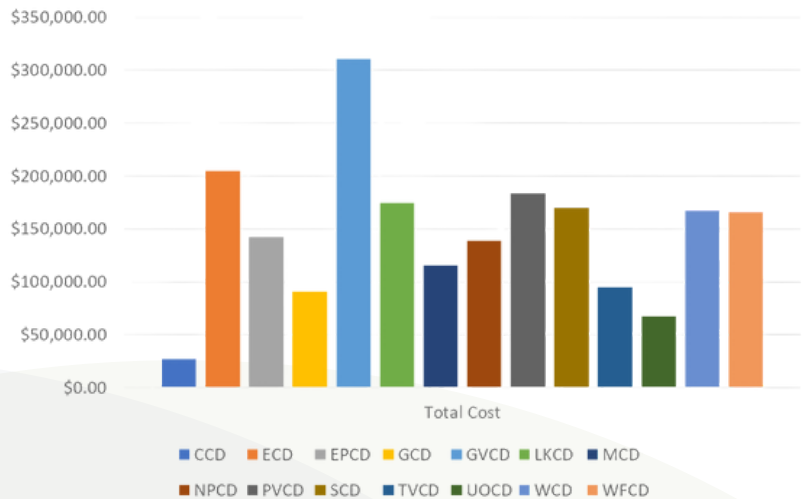
Caitlin Black (304) 549-1739

AgEP APPLICATIONS AT A GLANCE

AgEP staff assisted cooperators with the installation of 812 Best Management Practices (BMPs) in Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22). The completion rate was 67.6% across the state.

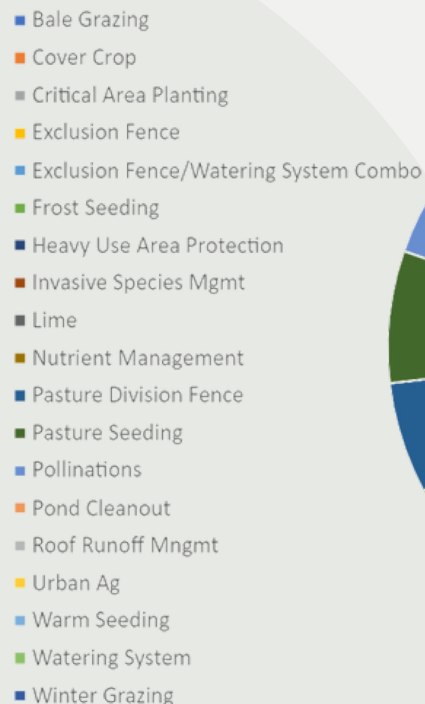
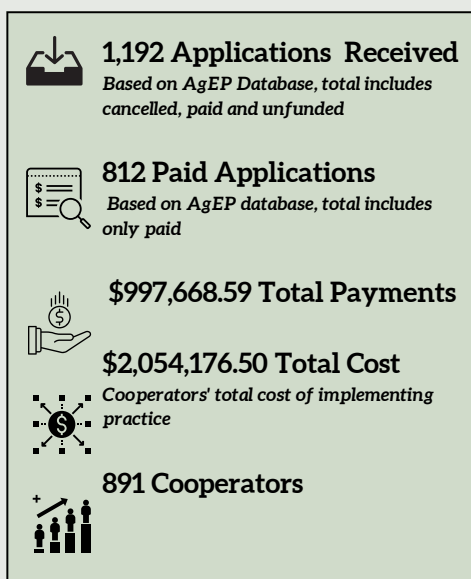


APPLICATIONS BY DISTRICT



Between the funding from the AgEP program and the cost-share from cooperators, the West Virginia Conservation Agency, along with local conservation districts, were able to implement over \$2 million in conservation land-based BMPs.

STATEWIDE PAID APPLICATIONS BY PRACTICE

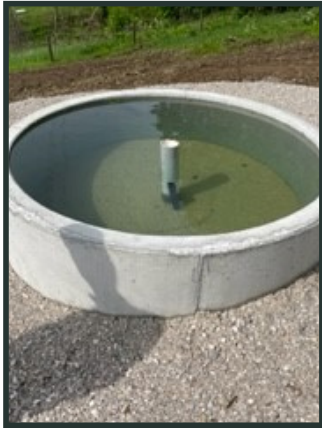


Practices Completed in FY21

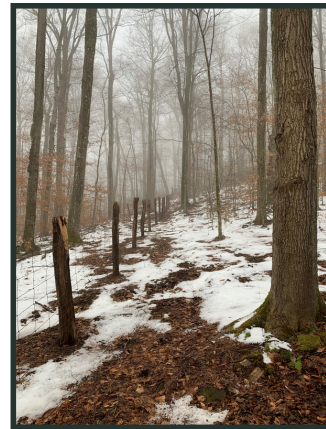
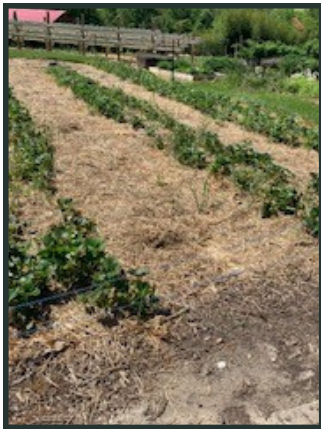
Practice	Paid	# of Apps
Bale Grazing	\$532.07	1
Cover Crop	\$589.20	3
Exclusion Fence	\$63,453.39	31
Exclusion Fence/Watering System Combo	\$2,500.00	1
Frost Seeding	\$33,011.51	71
Heavy Use Area Protection	\$138,173.80	80
Invasive Species Management	\$37,183.89	60
Lime	\$257,449.99	212
Nutrient Management	\$99,890.43	86
Pasture Division Fence	\$106,648.20	49
Pasture Seeding	\$78,044.87	58
Pollinations	\$14,333.14	26
Pond Cleanout	\$8,519.25	7
Roof Runoff Management	\$4,143.74	2
Urban Agriculture	\$23,244.81	55
Warm Seeding	\$1,525.00	3
Watering System	\$127,425.30	66
Winter Grazing	\$1,000.00	1
Totals	\$997,668.59	812

FY 22 applications numbered 1192 with 114 of those being unfunded. These were largely in []. In some areas cost-share assistance is in great demand and the ranking process can be competitive. Application acceptance is based on ranking score and availability of funds. Another benefit to the locally led program is that board supervisors may also seek outside funding sources such as grants to supplement the AgEP program in their districts.

AGRICULTURAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM COMPLETED PROJECTS



(Left) Watering system implemented in Marshall County, photo courtesy of John W. Miller. (Middle) Pasture Division Fencing put up by Thomas Badgett in Wood County. (Right) An example of Urban Agriculture support in Brooke County.



(Left) An Urban Agriculture example from Eric Freeland of Ohio County. (Middle) Invasive Species Management at Hayes Farm in Preston County. (Right) Division Fencing implemented by Donnie Hamrick in Nicholas County.



(Left) An example of Bale Grazing from Possum Trail Farm in Preston County. (Right) A Watering System implemented in Marshall County by Josiah Wallace.



Scan here to access the WVCA AgEP Best Management Practice descriptions webpage





West Virginia Conservation Agency
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305-0193



West Virginia
Conservation Agency

Mission: To provide for and promote the protection and conservation of West Virginia's soil, land, water and related resources for the health, safety and general welfare of the state's citizens.