



Agricultural Enhancement Program

Annual Report FY 24

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FY AGRICULTURAL 24 ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT

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Eastern Panhandle Conservation District AgEP Success in Jefferson County

Submitted by Erin Krieger Coda

In Jefferson County, farmland is being parceled out into smaller lots. In many of these smaller acre properties, agricultural values are a lost concept. However, a new Jefferson County landowner decided to install small-scale Best Management Practices (BMPs) on their 11-acre “homestead.”

With the landowner’s goals including sustainable production for their family and pollinators, they enrolled in the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District’s Honeybee Nucleus Colony and Urban & Community Agriculture programs.

Within the first year of property ownership, the landowner has installed four cold frames, two raised beds, trellising systems, and one honeybee nucleus colony. The landowner is looking forward to participating in FY25 programs to implement a pollinator habitat plot as well as cover crops.

Development and expansion of urbanization can be a threat to agriculture, yet small-scale agriculture BMP programs prove to be effective at keeping ag land in ag use.



Guyan Conservation District Field Days

Submitted by Caitlin Black

Guyan Conservation District held four field days for high tunnel growers and livestock farmers. Three high tunnel fields days were held in Lincoln and Boone counties and a Pasture Walk was held in Wayne County. These field days provided cooperators with valuable knowledge and technical assistance to assist in achieving their farming goals. Guyan Conservation District was able to host over 250 cooperators during these four field days.



Assistant Director of Conservation Services

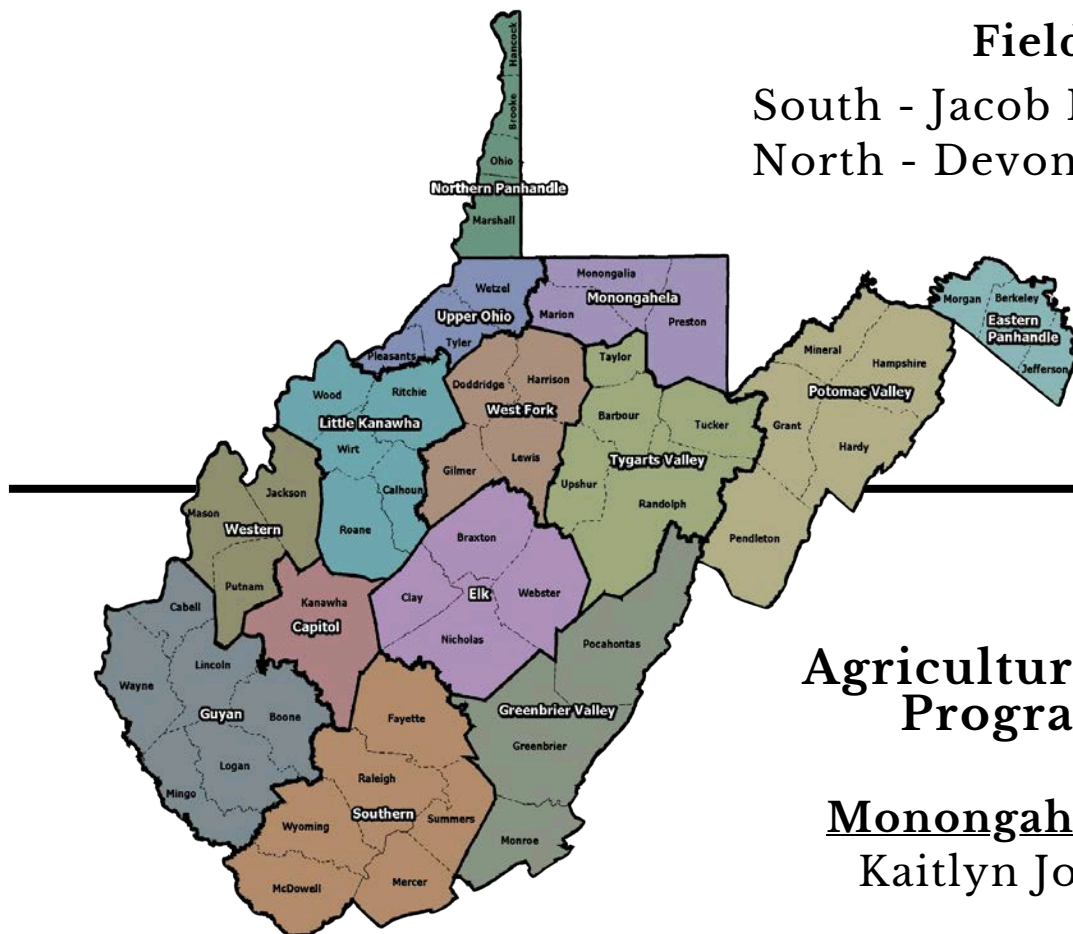
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Field Operation Managers

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North - Devon Kokoska 681.895.1866

East - Vacant



Agricultural Enhancement Program Field Staff

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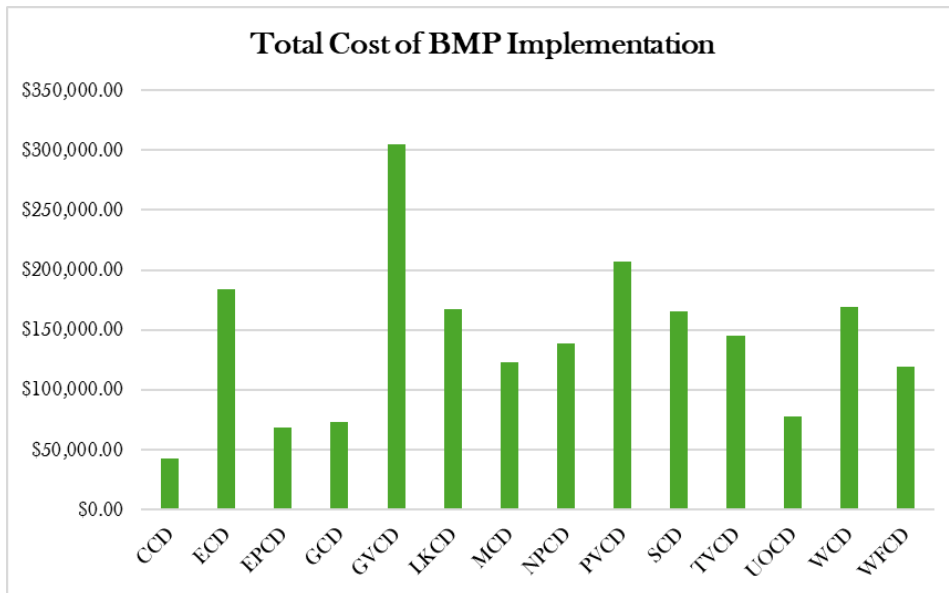
Guyan

Caitlin Black 304.549.1739

Little Kanawha

vacant

The West Virginia Conservation Agency, along with local conservation districts, successfully supported the implementation of nearly \$2 million of conservation Best Management Practices (BMPs) by utilizing Agricultural Enhancement Program funding and cost-share provided by cooperators.



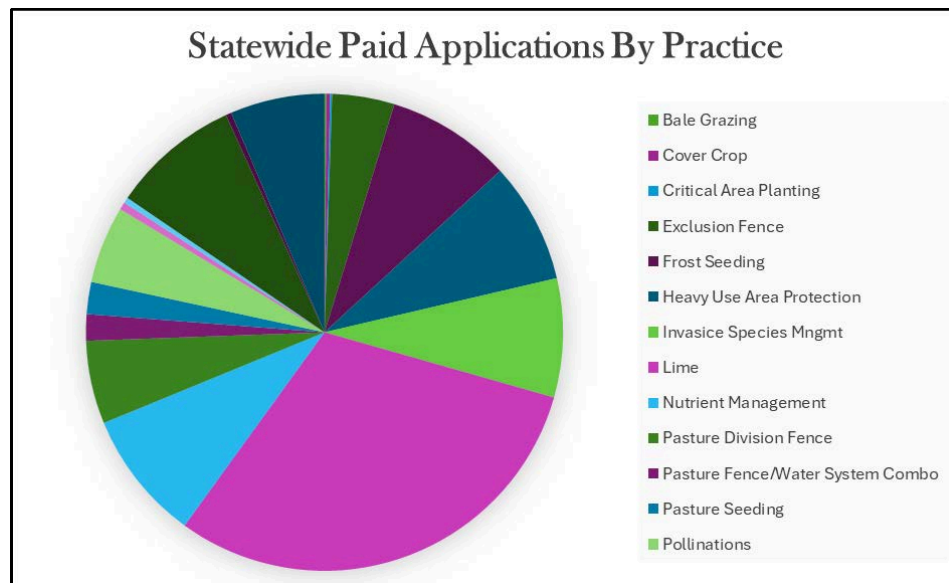
AgEP staff assisted cooperators with the installation of 768 Best Management Practices (BMPs) in Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24). The completion rate was 72.15% across West Virginia's fourteen conservation districts.

1,181 Applications Received
Based on AgEP Database, total includes cancelled, paid, and unfunded applications.

768 Paid Applications
Based on AgEP database, total includes on applications paid.

\$955,615.47 Total Payments

\$1,982,411.18 Total Cost
Cooperators' total cost to implement the BMP



Practice	Paid	Applications
Bale Grazing	\$472.74	1
Cover Crop	\$685.00	2
Critical Area Planting	\$800.00	1
Exclusion Fence	\$77,314.00	33
Frost Seeding	\$45,349.60	66
Heavy Use Area Protection	\$112,035.83	64
Invasive Species Management	\$57,360.37	63
Lime	\$305,714.71	239
Nutrient Management	\$75,833.07	69
Pasture Division Fence	\$98,473.60	44
Pasture Seeding	\$23,026.36	17
Pollination	\$7,650.26	41
Pond Cleanout	\$5,655.00	4
Roof Runoff Management	\$5,707.82	3
Urban & Community Ag	\$32,997.68	68
Warm Season Seeding	\$3,300.00	3
Watering System	\$103,239.43	50
TOTALS	\$955,615.47	768

FY24 applications totaled 1,181 with 158 of those being unfunded. In some districts, cost-share assistance is in great demand and the ranking process can be very 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.

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West Virginia
Conservation Agency

West Virginia Conservation Agency
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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.