

# Agricultural Enhancement Program (AgEP)



The purpose of the West Virginia Agricultural Enhancement Program (AgEP) is to assist agricultural landowners of West Virginia with the implementation of *West Virginia's Best Management Practices (BMPs)* in order to control erosion, conserve soil, and improve overall land quality, water quality and natural resource sustainability for the general welfare of the people of West Virginia.



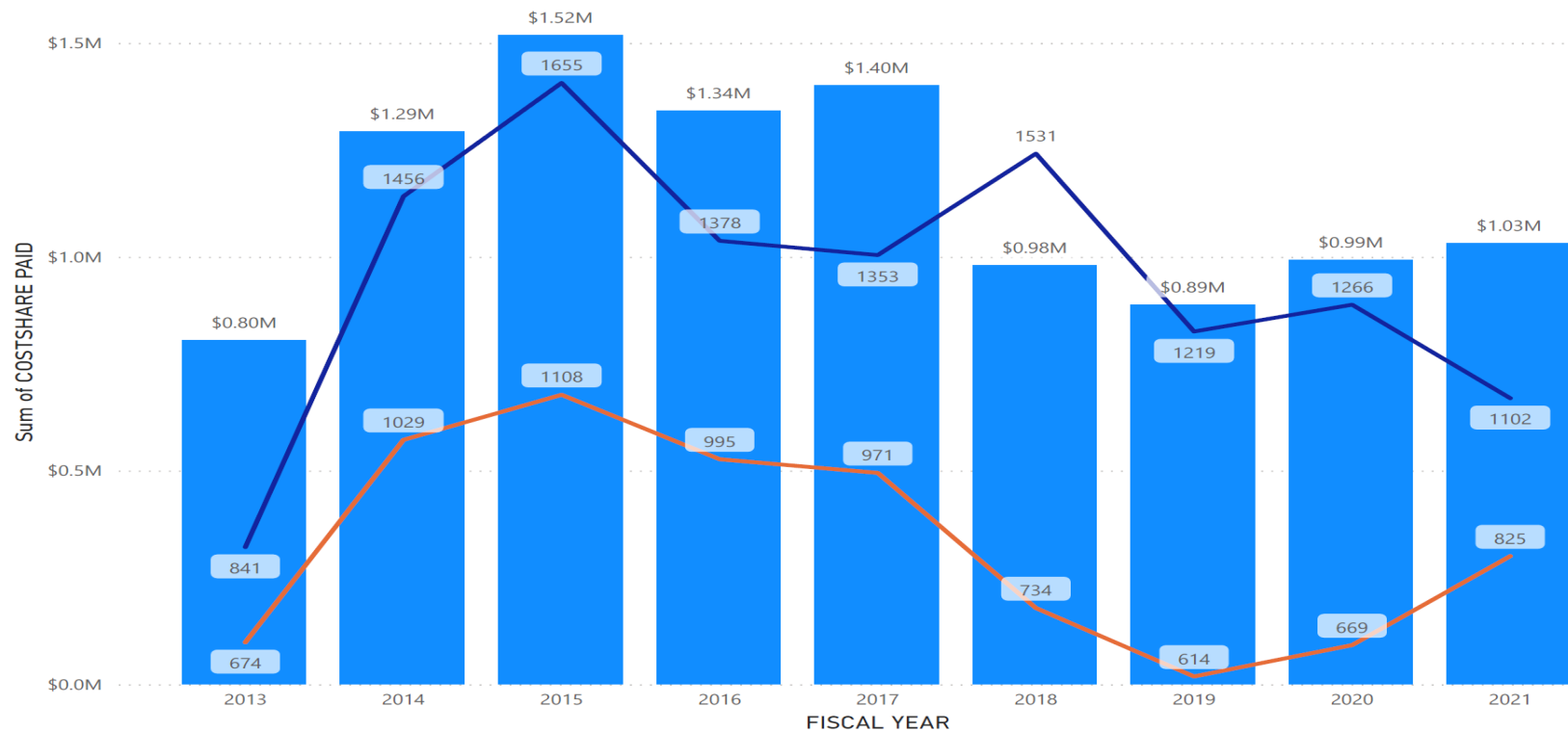
# Purpose

# Background

- Lime Incentive Program
- FY 2009-2012 Pilot Program
- EPCD, GVCD, MCD, NPCD and PVCD

Sum of COSTSHARE PAID, Applications Received and Applications Paid by FISCAL YEAR

● Sum of COSTSHARE PAID ● Applications Received ● Applications Paid



# Program Administration

## Combined effort

- State AgEP Committee
- Conservation Districts
- WVCA/SCC
- NRCS, FSA and other partners

## Program Document

## Budgets

- State allocation
- CD allocations – formula
- CD budgets/Rates

## Application/Ranking/Approval/Payment Process

- Supervisor and Staff Applications

## Legislation

# WV Code

## §19-21A-4a.

### Administration of West Virginia Conservation Agency programs

CD supervisor participation no longer limited to \$1000 (Ethics limit)

#### SCC responsibilities (Code)

- Propose rules for legislative approval to establish:
  - The criteria, ranking and standards required for an applicant to qualify to participate in WVCA programs
  - A process to disclose the recipients of the award
  - The process for an unsuccessful qualified applicant to appeal an award.

#### SCC responsibilities (Legislative Rule)

- Annually approve program to include practice list and applicant eligibility criteria
- Consider CD recommendations when developing criteria

#### CD responsibilities per Legislative Rule:

- Provide recommendations to the SCC on local resource concerns, needed conservation practices, financial assistance rates and other local priority needs
- Use SCC's approved practice list to generate and submit a local priority list to the WVCA
- Administer financial assistance programs in accordance with SCC approved policies
- Update and maintain WVCA's financial assistance database
- Provide annual progress reports to the SCC by July 31 each year
- Conservation District supervisors who apply to participate in a WVCA financial assistance program shall submit their applications to the WVCA for evaluation, approval or rejection.

# Role of Conservation Specialists

Coverage Area -  
Multiple CDs and/or  
programs

Combined work  
environment – field  
focused

Technical aspects of  
AgEP - Field visits,  
ranking, verification,  
technical assistance

Cooperation with  
field office staff –  
WVCA and Federal  
Partners

# AgEP Field Staff:

## **Russell Young – CS 3 AgEP Lead**

### **Capitol and Elk CD**

**Dylan Johnson (304) 590-1540**

### **Eastern Panhandle CD**

**Barbie Elliott & Amy Henry  
(304) 263-4376**

### **Greenbrier Valley CD**

**Barry Level (GVCD employee)  
(304) 645-6173**

### **Guyan CD**

**Caitlin Black (304) 549-1739**

### **Little Kanawha CD**

**Mikayla Hayes (304) 541-5685**

### **Monongahela and West Fork CD**

**Sigrid Teets (681) 313-0826**

### **Northern Panhandle and Upper Ohio CD**

**Jennifer Kile (304) 590-6095**

### **Potomac Valley CD**

**Ben Heavner (304) 538-7581**

### **Southern CD**

**Kenny Maiolo (304) 253-0261**

### **Tygarts Valley CD**

**Micah Cunningham  
(304) 993-6224**

### **Western CD**

**Anthony Winters (304) 539-0663**



# FY 23 Practice List



- Pasture Division Fence/Watering System (combined practice)
- Pasture Establishment or Reseeding
- Pollination
- Pond Clean Out
- Precision Agriculture
- Riparian Forest Buffer
- Roof Runoff Management
- Silvopasture
- Urban Agriculture
- Warm Season Annual Seeding
- Watering Systems
- Water Protection Exclusion Fence
- Winter Grazing
- Woodland Exclusion Fence
- Bale Grazing
- Cover Crop
- Critical Area Planting
- Deer Exclusion Fence
- Exclusion Fence/Watering System (combined practice)
- Forest Stand Improvement
- Frost Seeding
- Hay Establishment or Reseeding
- Heavy Use Area Protection
- Invasive Species Management
- Lime (liquid lime is ineligible)
- Micro Irrigation
- Nutrient Management
- Pasture Division Fence




# AgEP Timeline

*\*timeline may be adjusted*

- ❖ **July 1** - Start of Program Year
- ❖ **July 15** – Deadline for DMs to close out database for previous FY
- ❖ **July 31** - AgEP Newsletter (Annual Progress Report)
- ❖ **September** - State AgEP Committee meeting
- ❖ **November 18** – Deadline for CDs to submit allocation formula proposals and new practices for upcoming FY program
- ❖ **December** – State AgEP committee mid-year meeting to review proposals, new practices, and form subcommittee(s) if needed
- ❖ **January 31** - Deadline for CDs to submit additional program comments, including ranking criteria
- ❖ **February** - Comments reviewed and forms revised
- ❖ **March** - State AgEP committee meeting to finalize upcoming FY program
- ❖ **April** - Presentation of upcoming FY AgEP to SCC
- ❖ **May/June/July** – CDs to finalize upcoming FY program, update AgEP agreement addendums, take action to approve LORs
- ❖ **June 15** – Deadline for CDs submit final practice list to WVCA (CDs can submit final list any time after SCC approval of practice list)





# AgEP Exigency Program

- New program tasked with emergency assistance
  - October 2021
- Sub Committee Development
- Budget
  - \$10,000.00

# AgEP Exigent Practices Handbook

## General Information

- General Program Information
- Exigent Practice Cost-Share Guidelines
- Exigent Practice Guidelines

## Exigent Practice Description

- Practice Definition
- Associated Exigency
- Practice Criteria
- Implementation Methods
- Technical References
- Materials Eligible for Cost-Share
- Practice Lifespan

# What does this mean for conservation district supervisors and boards?

- Appoint a representative to the State AgEP Committee
- Provide feedback on statewide program
- Local program decisions
  - Practices, rates, caps, application period(s)
  - Other program criteria
- Conduct program outreach
- Approve Letters of Request (LORs) for funding
- Review and approve applications
  - Based on ranking completed by staff
- Review and approve payments
- Educate general public and ag community about conservation practices and programs
- Support district and WVCA staff in carrying out programs and events

Questions?

