



# ***Resource Management Plans***

***A Voluntary Approach  
to Agricultural Certainty***



**Nutrient Management Program Update**  
**August 26, 2015**

# Resource Management Plans (RMPs)

The voluntary RMP program encourages farmers to implement conservation best management practices to reduce pollution to state waters and the Chesapeake Bay. In return for full implementation of these plans, farmers are insured protection from new state nutrient, sediment and bacterial-related water quality requirements.

# Minimum Standard Practices

- ❖ Nutrient management plan
- ❖ Soil conservation to “T”
- ❖ Cover crops (when required in NM or soil conservation plan)
- ❖ 35' Buffer along perennial streams (crop and hayland only)
- ❖ Fencing along perennial streams (pasture only)

## Make your conservation efforts count

**RMPs** give the agricultural community the credit they deserve for conservation efforts. In return, farmers have certainty that acreage covered by the plan is compliant with any new state nutrient or sediment standards.

- ☒ **Nutrient Management**
- ☒ **Soil conservation plans to “T”**
- +** ☒ **Buffers and/or stream exclusion**

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- ☒ **Resource management plan**

# Reasons for an RMP

- The farming industry can receive credit or recognition for practices already installed or implemented
- Agricultural industry representatives can speak with confidence about existing conservation practices
- Long-term farm planning will help cost-share program leaders to assess future funding needs to maintain existing practices and to install or implement planned practices
- Farmers with an RMP will receive priority consideration for BMP cost-share funding
- Certainty from the Chesapeake Bay WIP and local TMDL requirements

# What is “Certainty”?

Owners or operators who fully implement and maintain their resource management plan shall be deemed to be in full compliance with any new state regulations for nutrients, sediment, benthic, or bacteria to address:

- Any new requirements of the Virginia Chesapeake Bay TMDL Watershed Implementation Plan; or
- Any new load allocation contained in a local total maximum daily load (TMDL)

# RMP step by step

## *Resource Management Plans*

*A Voluntary Approach  
to Agricultural Certainty*



**farm  
assessment**

**plan  
development**

**plan  
implementation**

**verification**

**certification**

Learn more at [www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil\\_and\\_water/rmp.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil_and_water/rmp.shtml).

# RMP Plan Development Module

- Web-based software to create and review, and track progress of RMPs
- Interfaced with Ag. BMP Tracking Program and DCR Conservation Plan Development tool





RMP-8-15-0001

*Prepared for:* Bleak House Farm, Inc.  
Lottsburg, VA

*Prepared by:* Scott Ambler  
*RMP Certification #:* 162  
*NMP Certification #:* 162  
*NMP Certificate Expiration Date:* 8/31/16

I certify the following information has been prepared by me or under my direction and meets the requirements of the Virginia Resource Management Plan Regulations. I have reviewed all plan(s) included that were prepared by others and also certify those plan(s) were prepared by qualified individuals and meet the requirements of the Virginia Resource Management Plan Regulations.

*RMP Planner Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

***Description of the Management Unit, Operation, and Concerns Addressed in this Plan:***

The operation includes seven FSA tracts including 286.29 acres of crop fields. the cropping system is predominately row crops including corn, wheat and soybeans. Conservation tillage systems are practices and cover crops are widely used to enhance nutrient cycling and organic matter. The operation is adjacent to Wrights Cove and all of the fields have the required 35' buffer.

***Water and Environmentally Sensitive Features:***

The operation maintains a current nutrient management plan and soil conservation plan. The soil conservation plan includes the various crop rotations and minimum tillage systems in use. The operation has established herbaceous or forested buffers on all perennial streams except for 2 fields which have a herbaceous buffer planned.



## Summary of BMPs and RMP Schedule

### BMPs Required to Meet the RMP Minimum Standards

BMP/Schedule Item	Field #	Implementation Status	Implementation Date
VWQ-1: Voluntary Grass filter strips	13, Garden	Proposed	May, 2014

### Additional BMPs or Alternate Measure Not Required to Meet RMP Minimum Standards

BMP/Schedule Item	Field #	Implementation Status	Implementation Date
VNM-3: Voluntary Sidedress Application of Nitrogen on Corn	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, Garden,	Proposed	June, 2015
VNM-4: Voluntary Late Winter Split Application of N on Small Grains	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, Garden,	Proposed	February, 2015
VSL-8B: Voluntary Small Grain cover crop for Nutrient Management	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, Garden,	Proposed	October, 2015

1. Assessment ☒ 2. Development ☒ 3. Review ☒ 4. Implementation ☒ 5. Certification ☐ 6. Compliance

**ID:** RMP-8-15-0001  
**Type:** Resource Management Plan  
**District:** NORTHERN NECK

**Participant:** Bleak House Farm, Inc.  
**Phone:** (804) 529-6618

**Address:** PO Box 124,  
Lottsburg, VA 22511



## Plan Map

Land Units TOC Map Export

- ☒ PlanLandUnits
- ☒ Plan Map
  - ☒ Current Plan
    - ☒ Plan Land Unit Labels
    - ☒ BMPs
    - ☐ Soils Labels
    - ☐ Soils
  - ☐ Statewide Land Units
  - ☐ Statewide Plan Land Units
- ☒ All BMPs
- ☒ Reference Layers

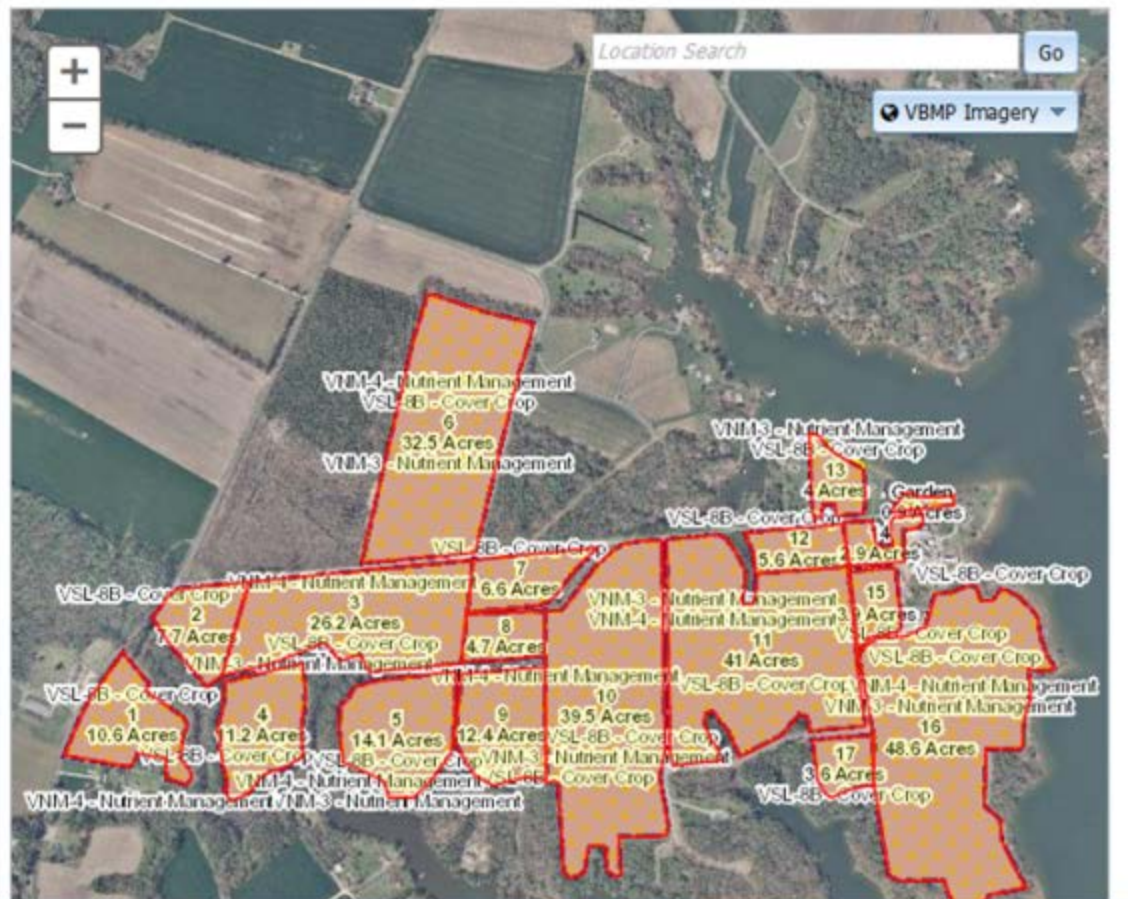






Land Units TOC Map Export

- ☒ PlanLandUnits
- ☒ Plan Map
  - ☒ Current Plan
    - ☒ Plan Land Unit Labels
    - ☒ BMPs
      - ☒ BMP Labels
        - ☒ Points
        - ☒ Ag BMP Points
        - ☒ Lines
        - ☒ Polygons
      - ☐ Points
        - ☒ Ag BMP Points
      - ☒ Lines
        - Other
        - Above Ground, Multi-Outlet
        - Access Road
        - Animal Trails and Walkways
        - Buffer Stripcropping/Wildlife
        - CREP Buffer Length Recommendation
        - CREP Riparian 100' Wide
        - CREP Wetland Restoration
        - CREP Wildlife Habitat Buffer
        - Channel Bed Stabilization
        - Connection to Public Sewer
        - Contour Buffer Strips



# TRC

Soil and Water Conservation Districts act as the approval authority if an employee or director did not develop the RMP (4VAC 50-70-70)

Technical Review Committee is a committee established by a District Board to review RMP Plans and provide recommendations to the District Board.

# Implementation

- Time to implement variable
- BMPs included in the plan receive Priority Consideration for VACS
- Opportunity for the RMP developer to stay involved

# Inspections

- Verification of Implementation: Confirming all BMPs are installed and implemented prior to Certification
- Certification Compliance: Inspections occurring at least every 3 years during the 9-year life of the Certificate of Implementation confirming that all BMPs are maintained and continue to be implemented

# Plan Developer Certification

- ❖ Certified Nutrient Management Planner (DCR)
- and**
- ❖ Certified Conservation Planner (NRCS)
- or**
- thru a demonstration of academic/applied  
proficiencies



# Option 2 Proficiencies

- ❖ Ag. Conservation Planning
- ❖ Environmental laws, regulations, and ordinances
- ❖ ID and preservation of historic resources
- ❖ VA's Ag BMPs
- ❖ Soil erosion processes, USDA Revised USLE and Wind Erosion Equation
- ❖ Fundamentals of water quality and nonpoint source pollution, pest management, and fire management
- ❖ Site vulnerability assessment tools

# RMP-1 RMP Development

- “Plan” practice
- Rate of \$10/acre
- Plan/application cap of \$6,500
- Payment pass-thru option (assignment of payment)

## **RMP-2 RMP Implementation**

- “Certificate of Certainty” practice
- Rate of \$5/acre
- Plan/application cap of \$3,250
- Payment pass-thru option (assignment of payment)

# RMP Funding – Last Year

\$400,000 total for FY 2015

- \$100,000 OCB VACS
- \$60,000 CB VACS
- \$240,000 CB contractor grant

# CB RMP Development Grant

#	Applicant /Sponsor	Targeted Number of Plans	Targeted Number of Acres	Grant Award Amount
1	Tellus Agronomics LLC	225	36,264	\$ 362,640.00
2	James Moneymaker	17	2,325	\$ 23,250.00
3	Water Stewardship, Inc.	15	2,125	\$ 21,250.00
4	Mattaponi Resources LLC	11	4,050	\$ 40,500.00
5	Ag Management Services, Inc.	6	2,500	\$ 25,000.00
TOTALS		274	47,264	\$ 472,640.00

# **Calendar year 2016 CB and Southern Rivers RFA**

- **\$120,000 Chesapeake Bay**
- **\$100,000 Outside Chesapeake Bay**
- **Timeline:**
  - RFPs issued on/before August 1
  - RFPs due early September
  - contracts begin January 1, 2016

# **RMP Cost-Share for PY 2016**

(July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016)

- \$60,000 set-aside for RMP-2 practices in the Chesapeake Bay watershed
- No set-aside for RMP-1 practices in CB
- No set-aside for any practices in OCB
- Participants may apply for local funding through their SWCD



## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS give farmers credit they deserve

By Sara Owens and Sherril McElaney

PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES is important to most people, but in the past many farmers have not gotten credit for their positive environmental efforts.

Buffer strips, no-till farming and carefully managing the use of nutrients on fields are all practices Virginia producers have been using for decades to prevent erosion and protect water quality. But unless those projects were paid for with cash share funds, farmers had no reliable method of verifying their voluntary best management practices. Environmentally responsible BMPs are seen as a major element of the state's water quality improvement efforts.

A new state program will document and share producers' role in keeping Virginia's waterways healthy. After two years in development, the Resource Management Plan program was released July 1.

"The main thing is to get farmers to use a high level of conservation practices or best management practices, and what this plan does is gives them

a new incentive," said Gary Waugh, public relations manager for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. "It basically gives them a certainty that, during the life of their plan, they would be assured that they are in compliance with water quality standards associated with Chesapeake Bay and ... local clean-up plans."

Michael Downing, a Northumberland County grain farmer, is the first Virginia farmer to successfully complete the RMP process. His plan was approved early last month.

Downing's farm is on a peninsula. Three ponds separate his corn, wheat and soybean crops, Globe Creek, which drains into the Potomac River, surrounds the farm. There is a residential area on the other side of the creek, and many people lead us that stretch of water.

"Everything we have is on the watershed, and we need to protect the water as best we can," Downing said. "We were already doing everything to be

in compliance. We were already keeping records and had a nutrient management plan in place. The only thing we had to do was submit our farmer plans."

Downing said it took about six weeks to get his plan together, and the process was easy.

"The staff at DCR was so helpful and really made it as painless as possible. It really is worthwhile to go through the process. If you're near water, it's a good idea to go ahead and get a plan together. It's voluntary, and you don't have anything to lose."

"There are going to be more requirements for farmers in the future, so it's a good idea to have a plan already in place to prevent farmers from litigation or future problems. That way we're already ahead of the game."

Virginia Resource Management Plans will be effective for one year, with compliance inspections every three years. Farmers enter into a plan agreement voluntarily. Certified BMP developers are available

to help producers who are interested in the program, which is the first of its kind in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Program participants have high hopes that it will make a significant difference for Virginia's farmers and the future of the state's waterways.

Det. Ed Scott, R-1000, was instrumental in getting legislation passed that got the program started.

"The idea behind the Resource Management Plan was to advance water quality management and at the same time provide farmers an opportunity for some regulatory assistance," Scott said. "We've got farmers who have put literally thousands of best management practices on the ground. We've got farmers doing nutrient management plans now, doing soil and erosion plans now. What we're simply trying to do is kind of bring it all under one umbrella."

Scott said the hope is to have a database in years from now that shows widespread adoption of BMPs by Virginia

Northumberland County grain producer Michael Downing is the first Virginia farmer to successfully complete the Resource Management Plan process. He farms on a peninsula surrounded by Globe Creek.



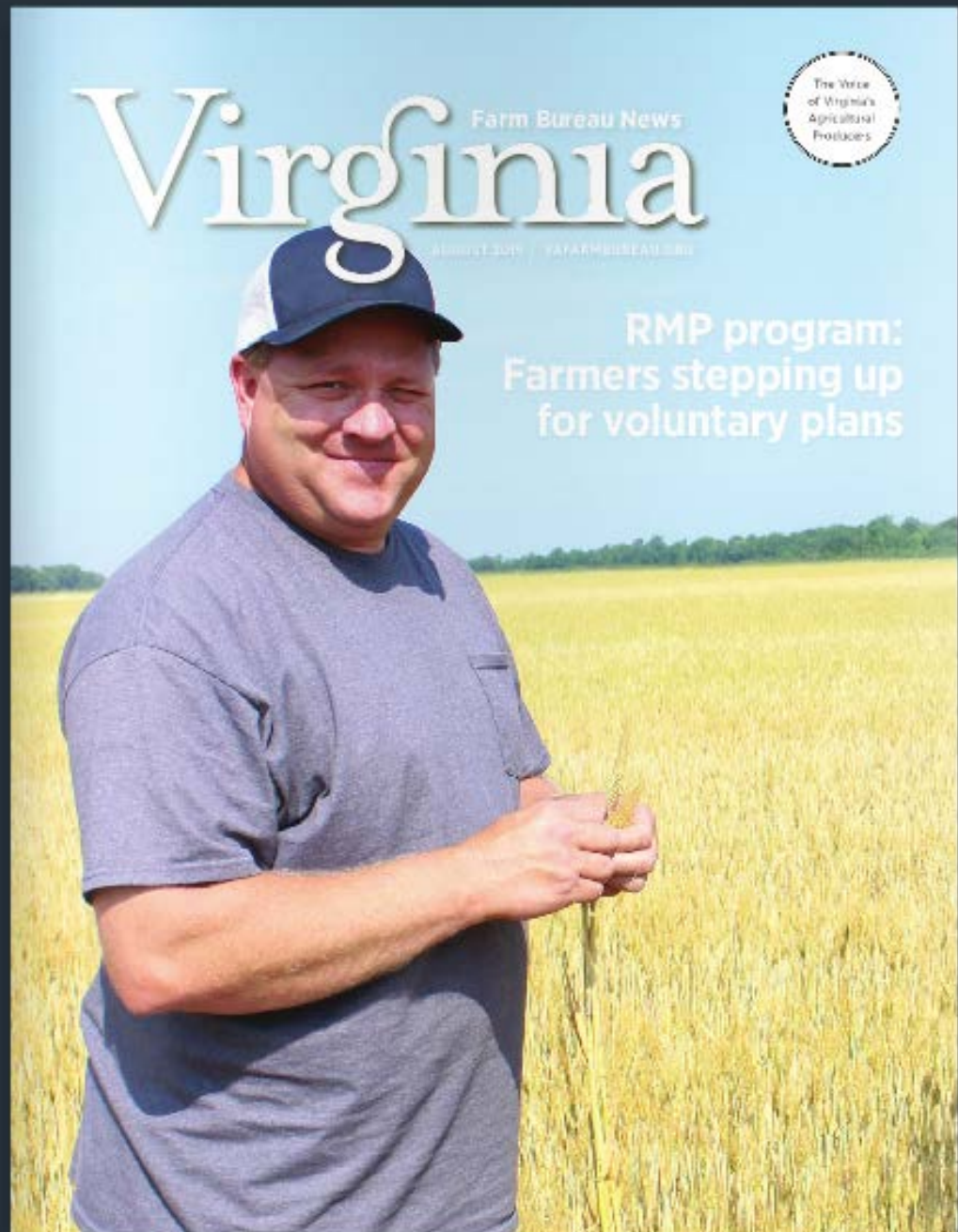
farmers, and to see that work reflected in Virginia's waterways.

The program not only will encourage greater use of BMPs, but also document those already in use. That could provide verified data on the positive impact of the agriculture community's conservation efforts.

"I think that when we get into this process we're going to find a number of farmers who are doing 75 to 90 percent of everything that they possibly could do," Scott said. "We're going to help them identify that next 10 or 20 percent and help them set up with a plan to move forward with that so that we can look at the environmental community and say we're contributing to make progress. But we can also thank the farmer for his or her efforts and, again, give them some regulatory assistance for the future."

**Want to know more?** For information on Virginia's new Resource Management Plan program, visit [dcra.org/vm](http://dcra.org/vm).





[http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil\\_and\\_water/rmp.shtm](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil_and_water/rmp.shtm)

#### Resources for plan developers

- [Application](#) (Word)
- [RMP-1](#) (PDF) and [RMP-2](#) (PDF) cost-share practice
- [NRCS authorization information release form](#) (PDF)
- [BMP assessment authorization](#) (PDF)
- Request for verification of RMP implementation (coming soon)

#### Resources for Soil and Water Conservation Districts

- Q/A (coming soon)
- [Plan review cover page](#) (PDF)
- [Plan review checklist](#) (PDF)
- [Approval procedure for RMP-1 and RMP-2 practice applications](#) (PDF)
- Instructions and request for issuance of RMP Certificate of Implementation (coming soon)
- TRC response to plan review form letter (coming soon)
- TRC response to verification of implementation inspection form letter (coming soon)
- Notice of upcoming inspection form letter (coming soon)

#### Links

- [Resource management law](#) (PDF)
- [Resource management regulations](#) (PDF)
- [Resource management planner application](#) (Word)
- List of certified resource management plan writers (Coming in July)
- [FAQ](#) (PDF)
- [Brochure](#) (PDF)
- [Presentation](#) (PDF) (April 2014)

# Additional Information on RMPs

[Scott.Ambler@DCR.Virginia.gov](mailto:Scott.Ambler@DCR.Virginia.gov)

540 332-9231

or

[Barbara.McGarry@DCR.Virginia.gov](mailto:Barbara.McGarry@DCR.Virginia.gov)

804 371-0297