

9 Things Producers Should Know

1. Is the Resource Management Plan Program (RMP) something new?

The RMP is a new way of implementing best management practices that provide the biggest impact on water quality. The practices being implemented are not new, but the provision of nine years of certainty from some environmental regulations is new. The program launched in July 2014 and is administered by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

2. What's the difference between an RMP and any other conservation plan?

Farms operating under an RMP certificate must follow a nutrient management plan and a conservation plan. Cropland and hay land must have stream buffers, and pasture must have stream exclusion fence.

3. What is certainty?

Once a farm is operating under an RMP certificate, the operator can rest assured that the farm is in compliance with all state nutrient, sediment and water quality-related standards for the next nine years. Certainty pertains to standards associated with TMDLs, or total maximum daily load cleanup plans. However, permit requirements for pollution abatement and pollutant discharge elimination systems still apply. The RMP certificate does not exempt farms from requirements in the Chesapeake Bay Act or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

4. When does certainty begin?

The nine years of certainty begin on the date the state issues the RMP certificate of implementation. The certificate will be issued once all best management practices are installed and functioning.

5. If a producer is already implementing all of the best management practices required in an RMP plan, what is the point of developing a plan and having it verified?

In order to achieve the nine years of certainty, a farm must operate under an RMP certificate. This is in accordance with state laws written expressly for the RMP program. Even if TMDL-related state regulations change, a farm operating under an RMP is still in compliance, and the operator won't be required to implement new practices.

6. Are there any other benefits to an RMP?

The RMP tracking module will result in better documentation of best management practices. This means farmers will get credit or recognition for the practices they have in place. In addition, long-term farm planning will help cost-share program leaders assess future funding needs. Participation in the RMP program is voluntary.

7. What will it cost to get a plan?

Most RMP plans will be written by private-sector certified RMP developers, so there will be a cost. The state is providing some cost-share funds to cover plan development. Cost-share for the RMP-1 (Plan Development) provides \$10 per acre for all eligible acres, not to exceed \$6,500 per plan. Cost-share for RMP-2 (Plan Implementation) provides \$5 per acre for all eligible acres, not to exceed \$3,250 per plan.

8. Is assistance available for the implementation of best management practices needed for an RMP plan?

Farmers with an RMP certificate may receive priority consideration for cost-share funding for best management practices.

9. Whom do I contact about an RMP plan?

Contact your local soil and water conservation district. Find your local SWCD by visiting www.vaswcd.org or call the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts at 804-559-0324.

Virginia's Agricultural Resource Management Plan Program

Resource Management Plan

Certified Developers as of May 2015*

The following people are certified by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to develop resource management plans for agricultural lands in Virginia. Areas covered are listed below the contact information, where provided.

Al Dews

Mattaponi Resources
804-779-0850
dews@hughes.net

Kevin Dunn

434-547-6563
kdunn@pedmontswcd.org
Amelia, Nottoway and Prince Edward counties

Alan Marshall

Ag Management Services Inc.
540-967-3889
ag-management@comcast.net

James R. Moneymaker

540-461-0640
james.moneymaker@rockbridge.net

Gavin Sanderlin

540-570-0201
2ndnature@ntelos.net
Up to an hour's drive from Farmville

Meaghann Terrien

757-357-7004, ext. 121
meaghannterrien@peanutswcd.net
City of Suffolk; Isle of Wight and Surry counties

E.B. Watson

540-587-7645
eb.watson@verizon.net
City of Bedford; Campbell, Roanoke, Franklin, Pittsylvania, Botetourt, Rockbridge, Amherst and Bedford counties

Robert N. Whitescarver

Whitescarver Natural Resources Management LLC
540-280-7134
bobby.whitescarver@gettingmoreontheground.com

Timothy Woodward

Tellus Agronomics
703-785-0920
twoodward@agronomics.farm
Statewide

Charles O. Wootton

434-547-2179
charles.wootton@va.nacdnet.net
Amelia, Nottoway and Prince Edward counties

* This list is subject to change. Download a current list at www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil_and_water/documents/rmp-developers.pdf

