

## AG BMP Cost Share Signup Reminder

This is a reminder that we are approaching our annual cost share signup period.

**Official signup is July 18, 2011 thru August 12, 2011.**

Since there is significant work for staff members during the signup and it can be a slow process, we are again requesting that you call to make an appointment for your signup.

We don't want to be in the last days of signup and have multiple producers wasting their time while waiting for us to process other folks .

I have spoken to many of you but I only have a few appointments on the calendar so far.

If you do not know who your conservation specialist is call us and we will get you set up.

There are not a lot of changes in the cost share program this year. We will review changes with you where pertinent.

We do expect to have more money in the coming year than we had in the year just ended. Perhaps two and a half to three times as much money. We do not know how money will be allocated until we have signup and see what the requests are. Applications are ranked according to environmental need and State Priority and District Secondary considerations. For example DCR allocates an amount of money to each district just for Nutrient Management. There is an amount of money for Ches Bay Priority practices. There is an amount of money for general cost share.

There will be no new Nutrient Management record keeping contracts in the coming year.

If you have an existing contract, it will still be honored and paid.

The record keeping period is for the calendar year 2011 and records are due here in the office by March 1, 2012 .

Applications will be taken thru **8/12/2011**.

They will be processed and the appropriate environmental information will be gathered.

The applications will be ranked on the existing environmental criteria and primary and secondary considerations.

Rankings will be presented to the board at the September District meeting and first round approvals will be made at that time.

We will notify you soon after of what applications were approved.

Almost every year we have some money that is allocated and then the BMP is not installed. This means money is then reallocated working down the same ranking list in later months.

For example, this year a lot of cover crop wheat ended up going to grain and so those practices were cancelled and the money was reallocated to producer who reported cover crops that were planted and killed as per the specs.

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