



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Tree Incentive Guidance

Beginning April 1, 2023, new MACS projects with certain conservation practices may be eligible for a tree incentive payment on top of the cost-share provided for in the agreement. The incentive is \$2 per tree.

The eligible practices are:

- Windbreak Establishment (380)
- Silvopasture (381)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Tree and Shrub Establishment (612)

The incentive payment is available for any new trees that are planted as a component of the practice, and will be paid to the participant after the following has occurred:

- A claim for payment for the eligible practice has been submitted and approved by MACS.
- The form, *Bonus Incentive Payment for Conservation Grant Programs* has been completed and submitted to the Conservation Grants office.

The *Bonus Incentive* form will be mailed to the participant with their MACS project approval letter. Much of the information on the form will be pre-filled in by the Conservation Grants office; however, the dollar amount of the payment cannot be determined until the practice is complete.

The SCD will complete the form for the participant while they are completing the claim for payment. The number of trees actually planted, and the calculated incentive payment will be filled in at that time. Note that this incentive is based on the **number of trees planted**, not the acres of the practice. The participant must read and sign the *Bonus Incentive* agreement. The form will be returned to MACS with the claim for payment.

The participant should be made aware that the tree-planting incentive payment may arrive separately from the MACS cost-share due to different funding sources.

Date Received: _____

Form Tracking #: _____

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bonus Incentive Payment for Conservation Grant Programs
 AGREEMENT

Section I – Participant Information						
NAME and ADDRESS (of person or entity to receive payment). Include farm or business name, if any.						
Name:						
Farm or Business Name:						
Address:						
City/State/ZIP:						
Phone Number:		Soc. Sec. or FID#:				
Email:						
Section II – Program						
Conservation Grant Program	Check One	Contract #	Contract Length (years)	Practice Code		Bonus Payment (\$)
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)						
Conservation Buffer Initiative						
Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share Program (MACS)						
Section III – Participant Agreement for Receipt of Bonus Incentive Payment						
I have attached an IRS Form W-9 (https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf) for the person or entity that will receive this incentive payment.						
AGREEMENT: I understand that the Bonus Incentive Payment that MDA is paying me under this Agreement is conditioned on full compliance with the terms and conditions of the Contract checked off in Section II above, including implementing/maintaining the plan/practices called for in that Contract for the term of the Contract. I agree that if that Contract is terminated or if I otherwise breach its terms and conditions, I am responsible for refunding the bonus incentive payment that MDA made under this Agreement, and shall do so within 90 days from the date that MDA has notified me of this event.						
Signature of Applicant					Date	
Section IV – Approval						
For MDA Use						
The Maryland Department of Agriculture approves this application for a Bonus Incentive and recommends payment in the amount shown at right.						Payment:
Fund Source(s):						
Signature (MDA Representative)					Date	
This document may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, and all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument. Signatures provided by electronic means including, by way of example and not of limitation, facsimile, Adobe, PDF, and sent by electronic mail, or via an electronic signature program, shall be deemed to be original.						