



Land and Water Connections: Perpetuating Healthy Streams

A Program of the Valley Conservation Council (VCC) With support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

VCC, a Shenandoah Valley-based nonprofit citizens' organization, is offering this program to conserve working lands, improve water quality, and enhance the farmer's bottom line.

- ❖ Have you been considering donating a conservation easement* on your land?
- ❖ Have you applied agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) on your land, such as livestock stream exclusion or riparian forested buffers or developed a nutrient management or farm plan? (or interested in doing so?)
- ❖ Do you want to ensure your family's land remains intact and passed down to future generations to farm and enjoy?

If you answered "YES" to any of these questions, you could receive financial support from the Land & Water Connections Program. VCC is offering incentive payments of **up to \$15,000** to eligible participants who donate a conservation easement to permanently protect their land and stream banks and implement nutrient and resource management plans. These incentive payments are in addition to attractive tax benefits associated with donating an easement.

****What is a conservation easement?***

A conservation easement is a voluntary land protection tool that ensures a landowner continued ownership, use and enjoyment of land while ensuring that specific conservation values (e.g., productive farmland, water quality, etc.) are permanently protected. More information about easements is available in VCC's publication, *Protecting Shenandoah Valley Lands, A Landowner's Guide*.

**For more information about VCC and the Land & Water Connections Program,
please contact Emily Bender at Valley Conservation Council at
540.886.3541 or emily@valleyconservation.org**