

Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

Fy19 Capital Bill Funding

Water Quality – total capital \$5,215,000

BMP and CREP Program – \$3,615,000

- Grant programs to farmers for BMP project – manure pits, barnyards, collection of water, silage leachate projects
- CREP program – program that pays farmers a lease payment to take land out of production. Used to protect sensitive areas for water quality purposes. Buffers, grassed waterways and land that poses high erosion potential – contract with farmer to take land out of production for 15 to 20 years.
- As land transitions are occurring on farms the state is working with partners such as VHCB to create perpetual or term easements to ensure the land will be managed in a way that is consistent with water quality goals for the TMDL. The state would like to create a new add on option to the current CREP program where the state utilizes capital funding to help purchase these easements. The priority for utilizing these easements is when the normal BMP costs on a farm for water quality fixes is more than the easement itself, thereby saving the state funding and creating longer lasting environmental protection.
- Capital Equipment Assistance Program This program supports purchasing equipment for innovative nutrient reductions on farm and to support the implementation of a nutrient management plan. The cost share is capped by equipment type with an upper limit of \$300,000 and a required 10% contribution from the farm.

Phosphorus Extraction Pilot Program - \$1,600,000

Provide capital funding for 4 to 6 farmers to extract phosphorus from manure prior to field application. Capped at \$300,000 per farm and requires a 10% farmer cost share. Connected to the Phosphorus Challenge. Funding comes from the bond premium achieved by the sale of bonds by the Treasurer above expected rates.

Produce Safety Infrastructure Program - \$75,000

Grant program to assist produce farmers to meet the new infrastructure requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act.

NON Capital Bill Clean Water Funding

Clean Water Fund –Grants and Contracts- noncapital bill money - \$1,295,000

Incentives for farmers to implement phosphorus reduction practices above regulatory requirements, including riparian and wetland restoration programs; Technology or other infrastructure that facilitates

nutrient management development, data management and record keeping on farms; Creation of a Research Farm to study water quality runoff impacts from farm management systems and conservation practices; Alternative phosphorus reduction strategies (e.g., grassed-based farms, phosphorus separation strategies); Support for farm acquisition in order to overlay a conservation easement to establish agricultural practices that reduce phosphorus loading; Support for the Agronomy and Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) - contract to deliver agronomic (field-based) technical support to farmers statewide.

Clean Water Funds -Operating Funds - \$375,000

Increased on farm oversight to enforce regulatory requirements, ensure all statewide investments on agricultural operations are on compliant farms, and meeting legal requirements for water quality