

Maryland Cover Crop Program

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Maryland pays farmers a per-acre incentive purely to plant winter cover crops for nutrient-runoff control — the largest, longest-running state cost-share program of its kind in the US, tracked directly against Chesapeake Bay TMDL nitrogen and phosphorus targets.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	0/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	3/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-26

[Maryland Department of Agriculture](#) — accessed 2026-09-26

[Cover Crop Program \(Maryland Department of Agriculture\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-26

[Maryland continues funding for protective crop plantings \(Capital News Service\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-26

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